# SPAWN®

## SHADOWS OF SPAWN

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## COMPLETE COLLECTION

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## SHADOWS OF SPAWN

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# SHADOWS OF SPAWN

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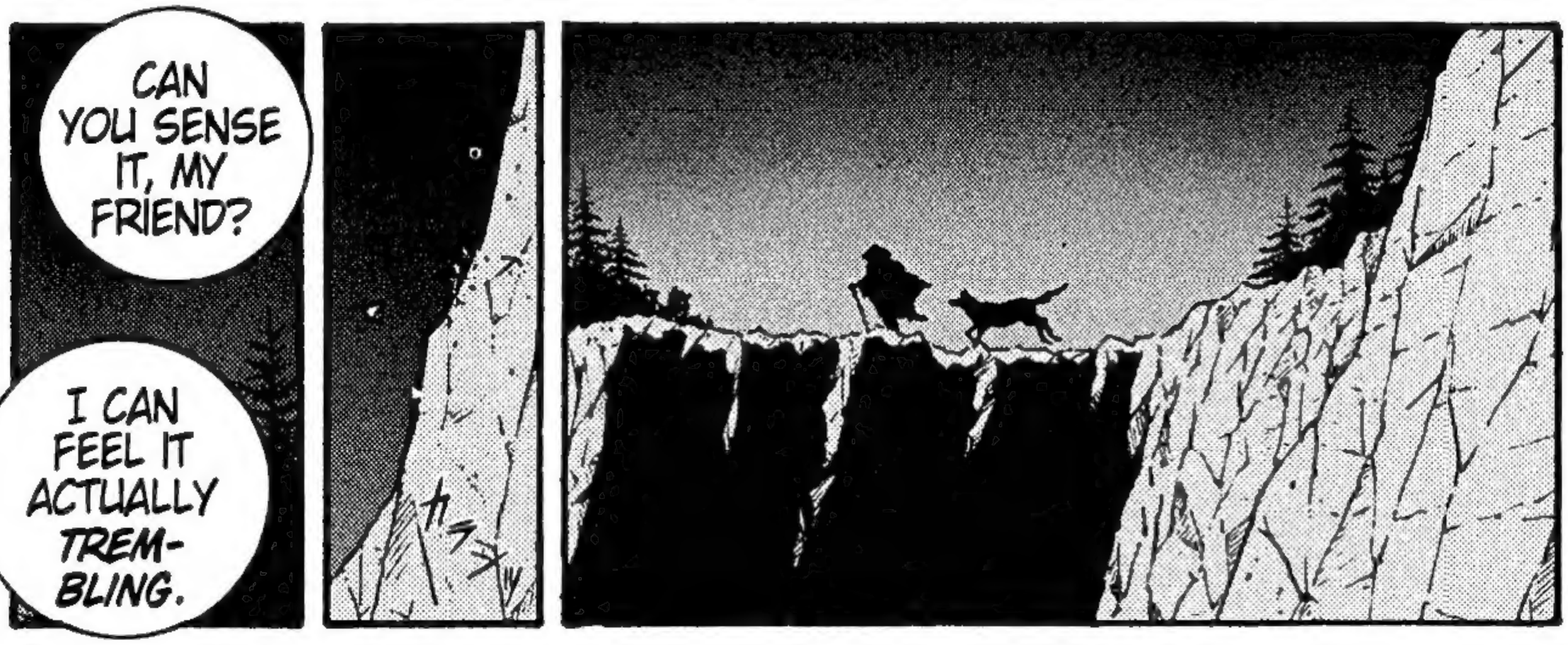
# EPISODE.1 THE OUTSET —発端—



IT'S BEEN 400 YEARS. MORE THAN AN ETERNITY SINCE *THAT DAY.*

*huff*

*huff*

*huff*

THEY'RE TRYING TO *TEAR* THE *RIFT* OPEN AGAIN.

*huff*

*huff*

*400 YEARS* AND THEY'RE STILL LOOKING TO START IT... THEY'RE *MAD.*

*huff*

*huff*

*huff*

*huff*

*huff*

MY OWN BODY IS STILL *ADJUSTING* TO THIS...STATE. AND ALL FOR *ONE REASON* ALONE...

I KNOW. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH THEIR LUNGS ON FIRE.

LET'S GO, MY FRIEND.

I'M THROUGH *SACRIFICING* FOR THIS CAUSE.

TO BE READY WHEN THE GREAT BATTLE BEGINS!!!

Los Angeles

HEY, MAN, COME ON! YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T JUST BAIL LIKE THAT.

BOSS DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD LEAVE, YET.

*WHOA!* HOLD ON, THERE, *DOUBLE-K.*

*...SO SIT YOUR ASS DOWN, YA* LITTLE *KARATE MONKEY.*

THIS AIN'T ABOUT SWALLOWIN' YOUR PRIDE...

*MOVE.*

I HAVE A *PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT.*

TODAY...

.....

YOU WANNA SAY THAT TO MY FACE AGAIN, LITTLE MAN?

A WHAT?! P...P... PREVIOUS ENGAGE-MENT?!

I'M *TELLING* YOU TO MOVE.

I'M NOT *"SAYING."*

LET IT *GO, BILLY.* THE ONE WHO'LL GET *HURT* HERE IS *YOU.*

UNH...

...HMM...

.....

...TOOK'EM ALL ON, RIGHT ON THEIR OWN TURF. ALL BY HIS LONESOME...

...AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT.

HEH. LOOK AT HIM REAL GOOD. THIS IS THE GUY WHO WENT RIGHT ON UP TO THE *D-BLOCK FOUR*...

6:30 PM

King Wah

HOLIDA

*REVENGE* THAT WILL BE, AT THE VERY LEAST, *TWICE* AS BRUTAL AS THAT PUT UPON THEM.

*ALAS*, SUCH AN DEED MEANS THE OTHER SIDE WILL WANT *PAY-BACK.*

THAT MEAN WE CAN PULL A BIG JOB, NOW? NO COM-PETITION, RIGHT?

WHOO!

AFTER ALL, IT WAS *YOU* WHO WENT IN THERE AND STIRRED-UP THIS LITTLE *HORNET'S NEST*, RIGHT?

WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE TO DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS, EH?

IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER *HAD* YOU KILLED THEM ALL OFF!

THEN, AT LEAST, THE *REST OF THEIR LITTLE PACK* WOULD KNOW WHO WAS *BOSS*...

...THEY'D *"BEHAVE"*!

*THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS!*

*THEY* TOOK THE FIRST SHOT. JUST BE GLAD I DIDN'T *KILL* ANYONE.

YOU--

WH--

WHY ARE YOU SO SCARED?

OF ME LEAVING?

THAT WOULD MAKE MY LEAVING ALL RIGHT... ...*RIGHT?*

YOU IDIOT! SO WHAT IF YOU'RE GONE! WE'D JUST BE *ONE* MAN SHORT. YOU DON'T THINK WE CAN'T HANDLE OURSELVES?

WHAT?

...OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

HOW'D D-BLOCK'S *SIMPSON BR-OTHERS* PUT IT? SWITCH SIDES AND WE'LL PAY $5000 PER WEEK.

BLUUUT, WHAT ABOUT OUR *CONTRACT*? YOU'RE A HIRED HAND.

TODAY, I'M GOING HOME.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COM-PLAINTS, THAT'S BETWEEN *YOU* AND *THEM*. MY CON-TRACT WITH YOU IS *DONE*.

*YOU...*

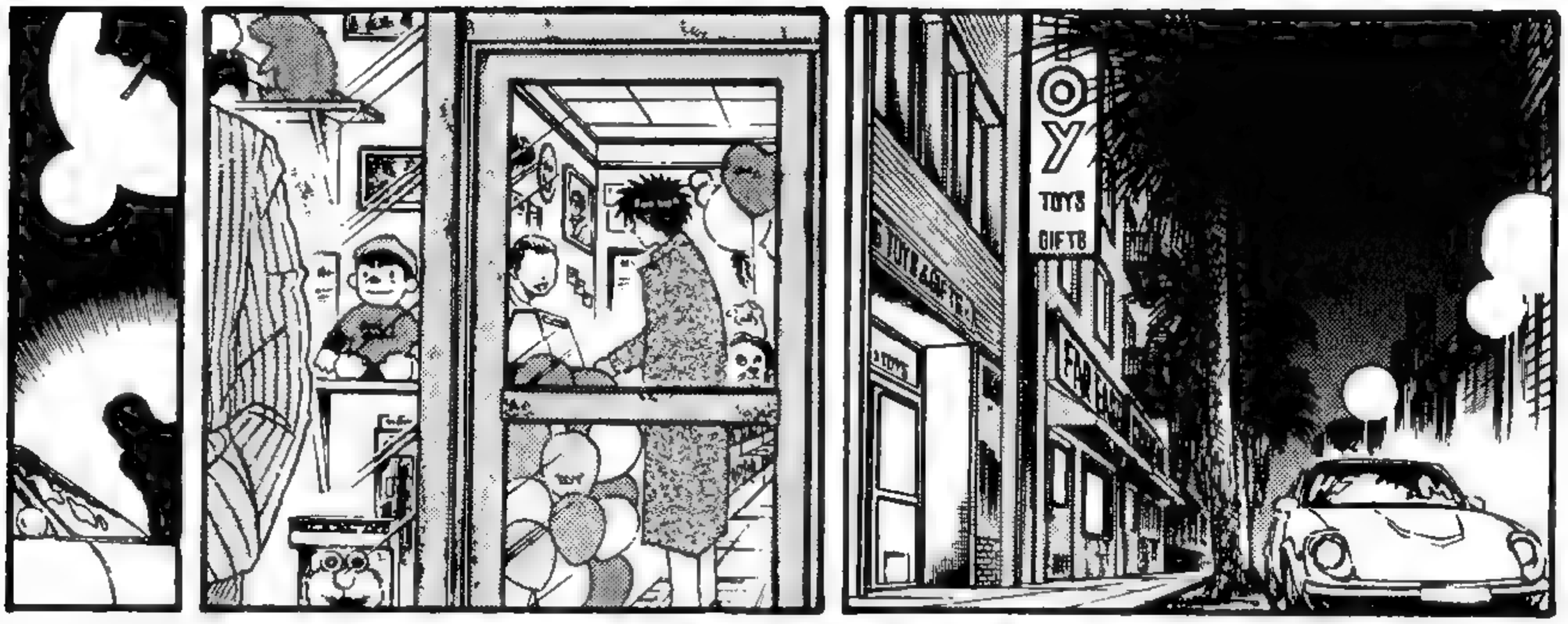
*...DIDN'T...*

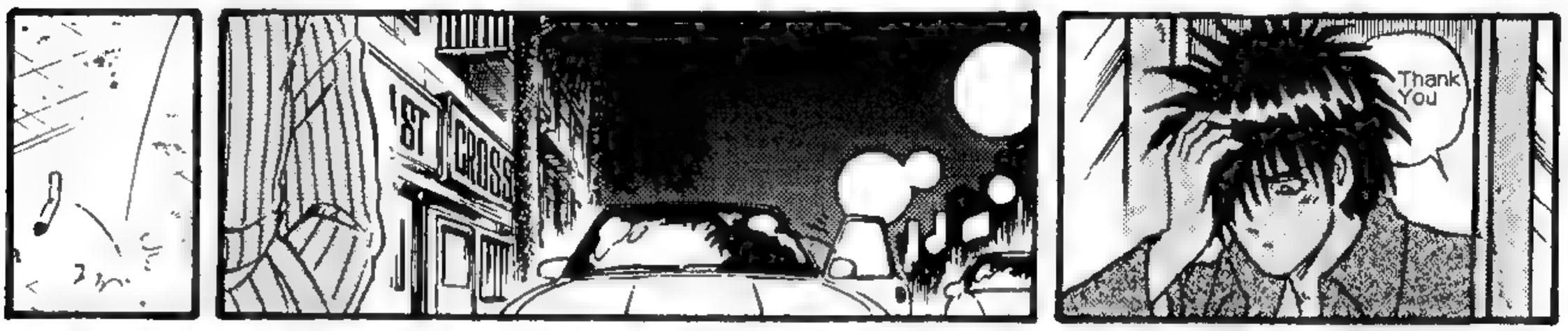
THAT...

...BASTARD...

THAT--

*WAIT! DOUBLE-K!*


TOYS
GIFTS


ST CROSS
Thank You

whirrr...rrr

THAT CAR--
EYAAAAA!!!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
THAT CAR JUST BLEW-UP!
OH, MY GOD! SOME-ONE'S IN THERE!
BEST STAY CLEAR! THE WHOLE THING CAN GO UP ANY SECOND, NOW!
SOME-ONE CALL 9-1-1!
HURRY!
SOME-ONE GET A COP OR SOME-THING!

HE'S STILL ALIVE!

HE--

EEK!

AAARGH

-GAF-

- COUGH -

UUUNG

GET...

...HOME...

SOMEONE PUT HIM OUT! HELP HIM!

JUST THIS...

...ONE...

...TIME...

MUST...

...GET...

...HOME...

WE NEED PARA-MEDICS!

HEY! IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, GET AWAY FROM THE CAR!

FORGET THEM! GET A FIRE EXTIN-GUISHER!

I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE--

MARIKO'S WAITING...

MARIKO...

I CAN'T DIE!

I WILL NOT DIE!

THAT'S A PROMISE!

MARIKO...

.....
.....

MARIKO.

I'M SORRY.

DIDN'T YOUR BIG BROTHER PROMISE YOU HE'D BE THERE?

THAT NO MATTER WHAT, THIS YEAR, I'D BE HOME FOR YOUR BIRTH-DAY.

...MOM AND DAD ARE...

...NOW THERE'S NO ONE.

THIS STUPID DISEASE. I CAN'T EVEN LEAVE MY OWN ROOM. I DON'T EVEN HAVE FRIENDS ANY-MORE! AND...

I'M SO TIRED OF IT.

I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE WORKING TO TAKE CARE OF ME, KEN...

...BUT I CAN'T TAKE *ANOTHER* BIRTHDAY ***ALONE!***

***I'M SICK OF BEING SICK ALL THE TIME!***

START-ING THIS YEAR, I PROMISE...

...EVERY *BIRTHDAY*, I'LL COME HOME.

*I GET IT*, I GET IT, ALREADY!

*WHOA*, THERE, *LITTLE SIS*. SETTLE DOWN.

cough cough

cough cough

FORGIVE ME, MARIKO.

THANK YOU!

I *SWEAR* TO YOU, I'LL BE *HERE*.

YOUR BIG BROTHER...

...MADE ANOTHER PROMISE...

...HE JUST COULDN'T KEEP.

...ANOTHER PROMISE...

New York City: Homicide hearings are underway for reputed mafia don...

HOMICIDE! HEAD
New York city,

.....?

WHERE AM I?

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

AND WHO--?

WHO AM I?!

WHO...

WHAT THE *HELL* KIND OF MASK IS THIS?

!?

WHAT KIND OF *CRAZY COSTUME--?!*

*MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY AM I IN IT?!*

AND THIS GET-UP...

YOOOO-- SO YOU'VE FINALLY COME AROUND, HAVE YOU?

WHO'S THERE?!

SO LOST. SO ALONE. POOR LITTLE CHICKIE.

CLITE, CLITE, LITTLE CHICKIE.

WHAT'RE YOU SCARED OF?

WHASSAMATTER?

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO FEAR AT ALL...

THERE'S NOTHING HERE FOR YOU TO FEAR. *HA!*

IS IT *ME*? HRMM... IN *NEW YORK*, I'M KNOWN AS--

...EVEN *FEAR* ITSELF!

I'M YOUR KIND AND GENTLE MENTOR...

...THE KIND OF NICE GUY WHO'S LITERALLY *GIVEN HIS HEAD* TO YOUR CAUSE.

# THE CLOWN!

YEP. THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME HEREABOUTS.

DON'T WORRY, BOYO. YOUR MEMORY WILL RETURN IN TIME. FOR NOW, THERE'S JUST *ONE* THING YOU NEED TO REMEMBER.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT?

NO TIME TO WASTE BEING INDEBTED TO YA, BIG GUY.

ALWAYS SO DAMN BUSY IN THIS TOWN.

TALK ABOUT OVERWORKED! NOW *AL SIMMONS*... THAT THERE'S A TRIPLE-A CHAMP OF CHAMPS

ACTUALLY, NOT ONE *THING* SO MUCH AS IT'S ABOUT ONE *PERSON*.

JUST ONE TEENSY-TINY LITTLE IOTA OF BUSINESS YOU DIDN'T QUITE FULFILL.

ONE LITTLE THING.

THERE WAS...

...A...

...PROMISE.

*THAT'S RIGHT!*

PERSON? ?!

*HNH!*

AND THAT'S WHY...

I COULDN'T LET MYSELF DIE.

!!

BUT YOU CAME BACK--

BLOODIED *ROADKILL* ON THE *FREEWAY OF LIFE*, BOYO.

WAIT A MIN-UTE...

...YOU SAYIN--

DIE?

EH, HEH. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT WE CALL YOU RUGRATS TO YOUR FACES, ANYWAY.

PU

AS A

**HELLSPAWN!**

!?

*HEY, YOU LAZY ASS-WIPES! OPEN YOUR DAMN EYES ALREADY!*

CALM DOWN, CHICKIE-BOY. I'M HERE TO FILL THAT EMPTY LITTLE NOGGIN' OF YOURS WITH ALL YOU'LL NEED TO KNOW!

H-- HELL-- DID I-- I MEAN, AM I--

H

CLICK CLACK

CLICK

WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE THINGS?!

CLICK CLICK

CLICK CLICK

IT'S ACTUALLY A BIT OF A *PARASITE*...

...THOUGH YOU ARE ITS MASTER.

LIKE ME, THAT SUIT LIVES TO PROTECT YOU.

HURRY? MEANING?

IF WE DON'T HURRY, YOUR REASON FOR RETURNING WILL HAVE LOST ITS MEANING.

NO TIME FOR ALL THESE KIDDIE QUESTIONS.

IN WHAT WAY?

PARA-SITE?

*HERE WE GO!*

OOOOKAY--

HEY!

HOLLYWOOD, HERE WE COME!

BUT A *CHICKIE IN THAT SUIT* CAN!

RIGHT ABOUT THE TIME YOU WERE ALIVE, A MEETING OF THE *POWERS* BEGAN A WHOLE NEW *ERA*.

*WE'RE FLYING!*

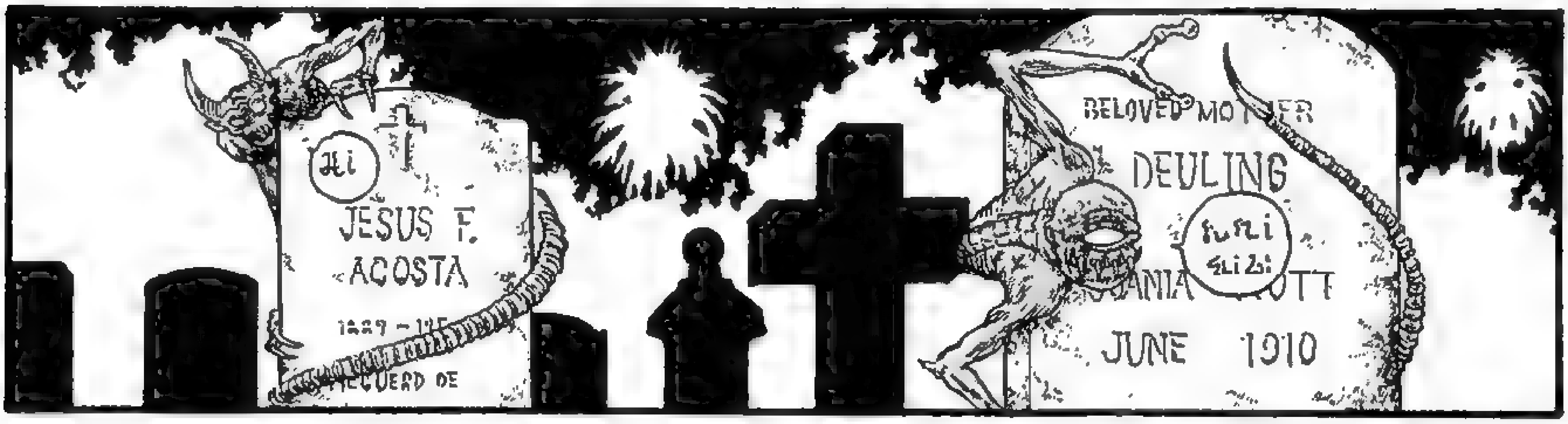
WH-
WH-
*WHAT GIVES?!*

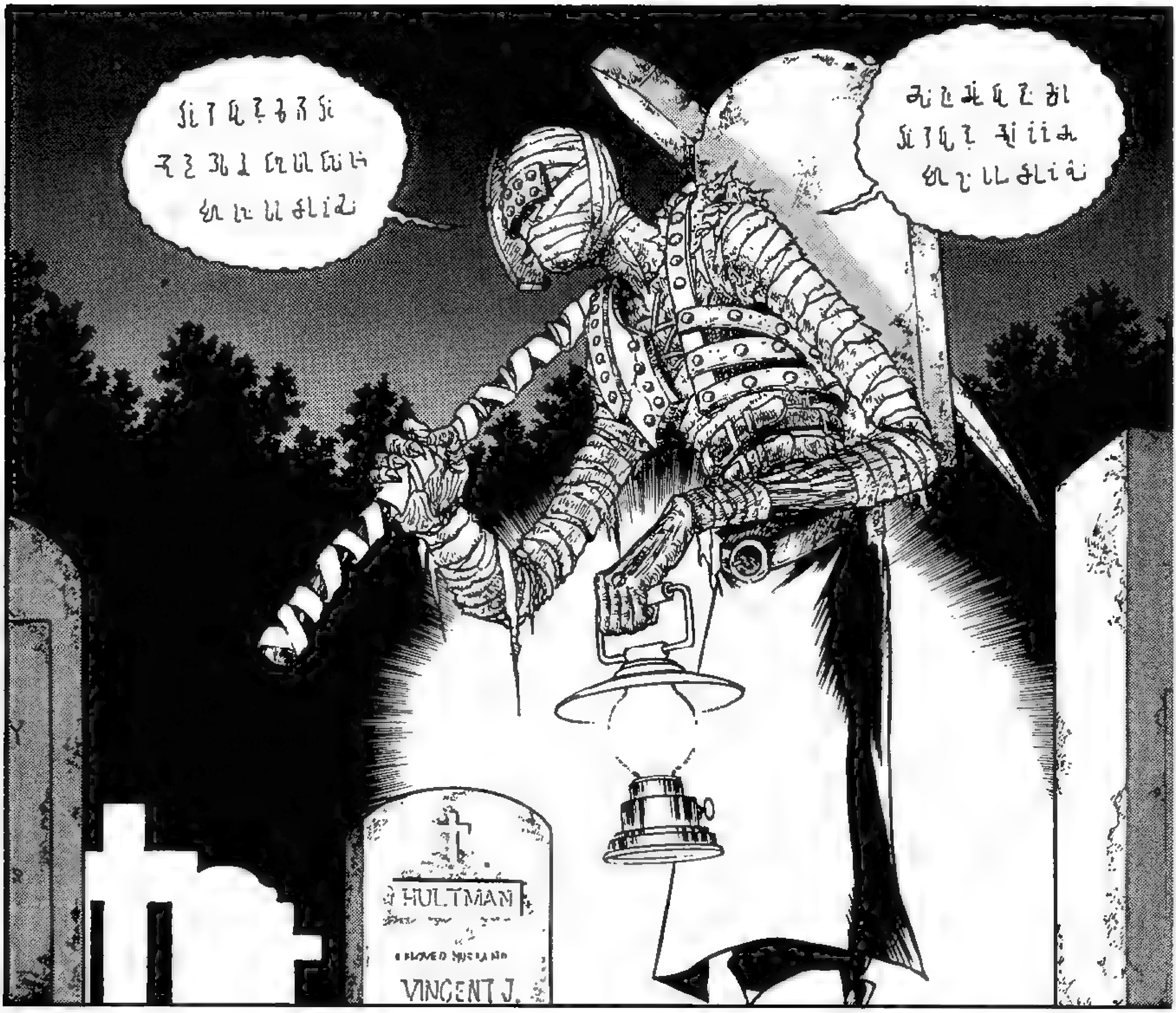
WH- WH- WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE, CHICKIE-BOY? GRANTED, *CHICKENS* DON'T FLY--

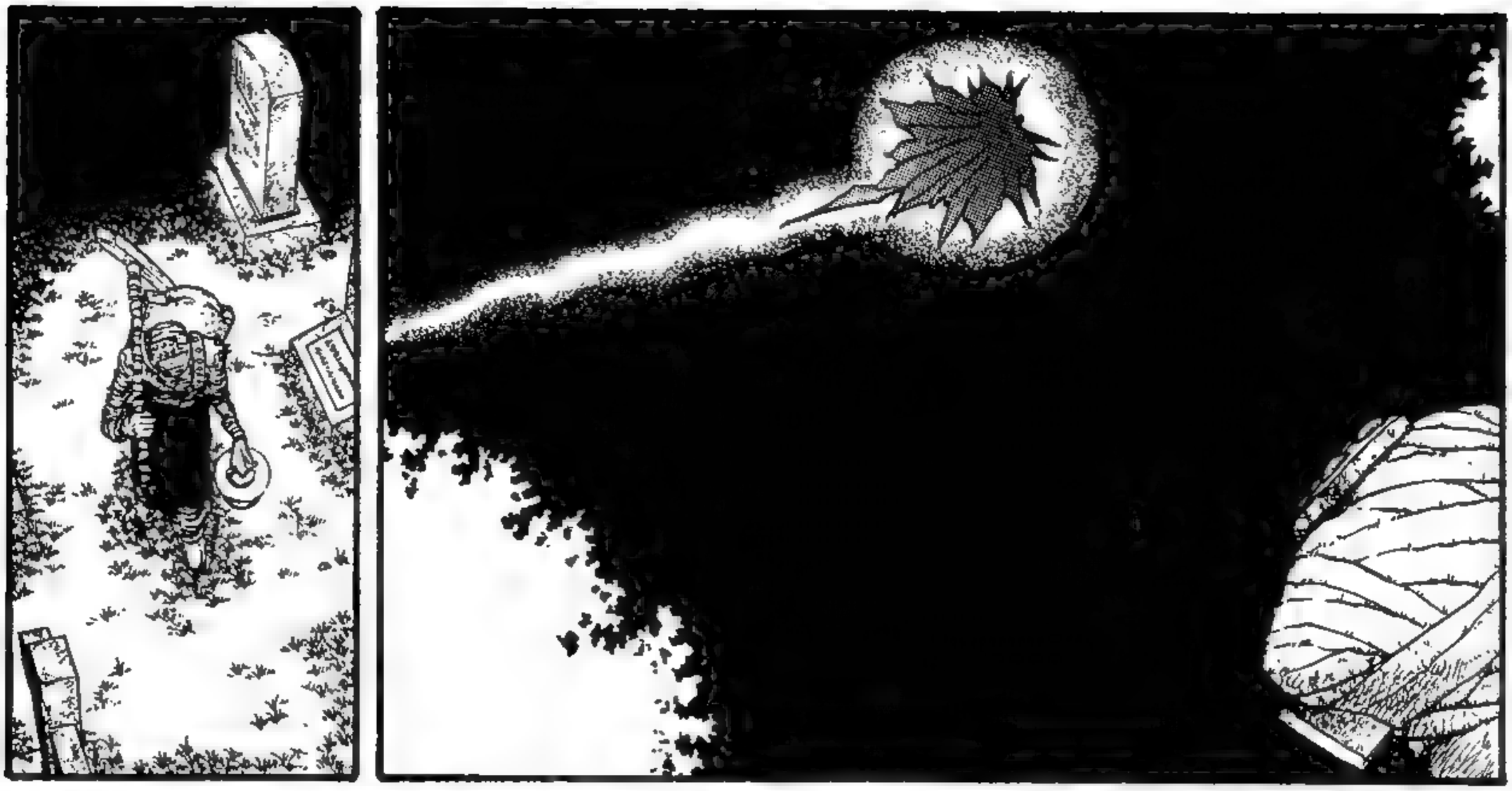
WE'RE OFF TO INTRODUCE YOU TO THIS NEW REALITY.

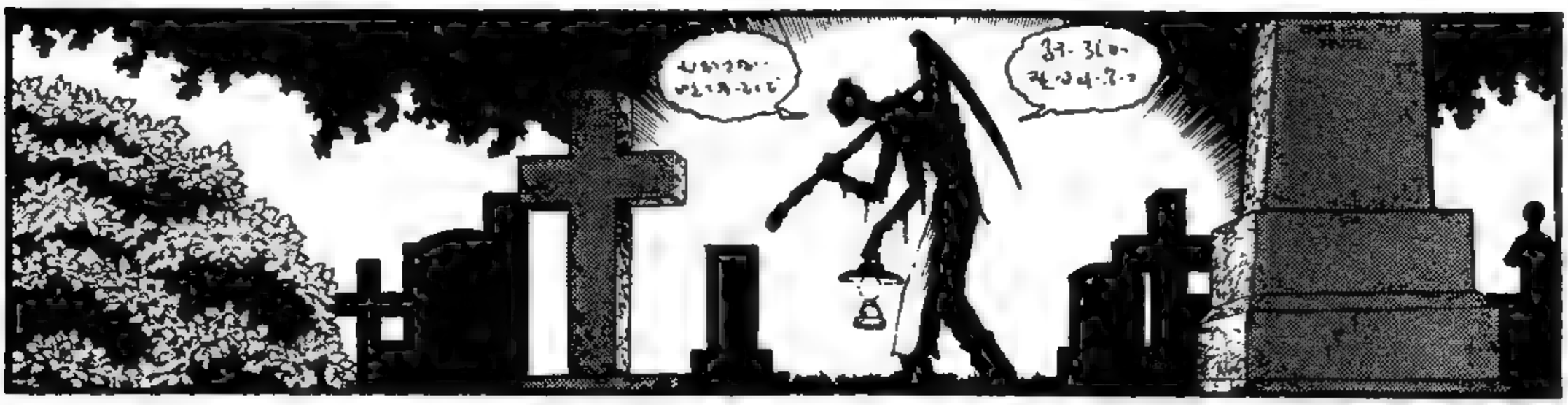
THE *NEW ORDER* THAT IS THE *WORLD* WE NOW "LIVE" IN...

YOU CAN STOP FLAP-PING YOUR ARMS, NOW.


Hi
JESUS F.
ACOSTA
DEULING
JUNE 1910


HULTMAN
VINCENT J.





WHERE ARE WE, NOW?

WHY DON'T YOU PEEK INSIDE AND TAKE A LOOKSEE?

...SLEEPING.

THERE'S SOMEONE...

.....

STILL DON'T GET IT? FINE. STEP INSIDE AND GET A CLOSER LOOK.

THEY STUCK ME WITH A BRIGHT ONE, THEY DID...

SHEEZ. GO TAKE A LOOKEE AT THAT PICTURE ON THE DRESSER.

HEY, HEY? ISN'T IT COMING BACK TO YOU, YET? HUH?

WHO IS THIS GIRL?

IT--
IT CAN'T
BE.

!!

I
*KNOW*
THAT
FACE.

THAT
FACE.

AND
THE LITTLE
DARLIN' IN
THE BED--

'BOUT
TIME! YEP.
THAT'S YOU,
HAND-
SOME!

お兄ちゃん

*MARIKO!*

SHE'S
MY
SISTER!

SHE'S...

...MY...

KEEP QUIET, YOU IDIOT!

ACH! NOT GOOD.

HNH?

!

WHO'S THERE?!

WHO--?!

TIME TO CLOSE THOSE PRETTY LITTLE EYES AND GO BACK TO SLEEP, PRIN-CESS.

SHHH, SHHH-SHHH. HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, LIL' GIRL.

NNN

!

UMMN...

HOW WOULD THAT HAVE GONE?

OR DID YOU PLAN TO EXPLAIN YOUR RE-TURN FROM THE DEAD?

HOLD YOUR HORSES, COWBOY. I JUST PUT HER BACK TO LA-LA LAND.

*WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?!*

*HNN.*

WE'RE NOT GONNA GET FAR IF I HAVE TO EXPLAIN *EVERY* LIT-TLE DETAIL.

*MUST I EXPLAIN EVERY-THING?*

THIS GIRL IS A *TEEN-AGER.*

WAIT A SECOND. MARIKO WAS NINE WHEN I... DIED.

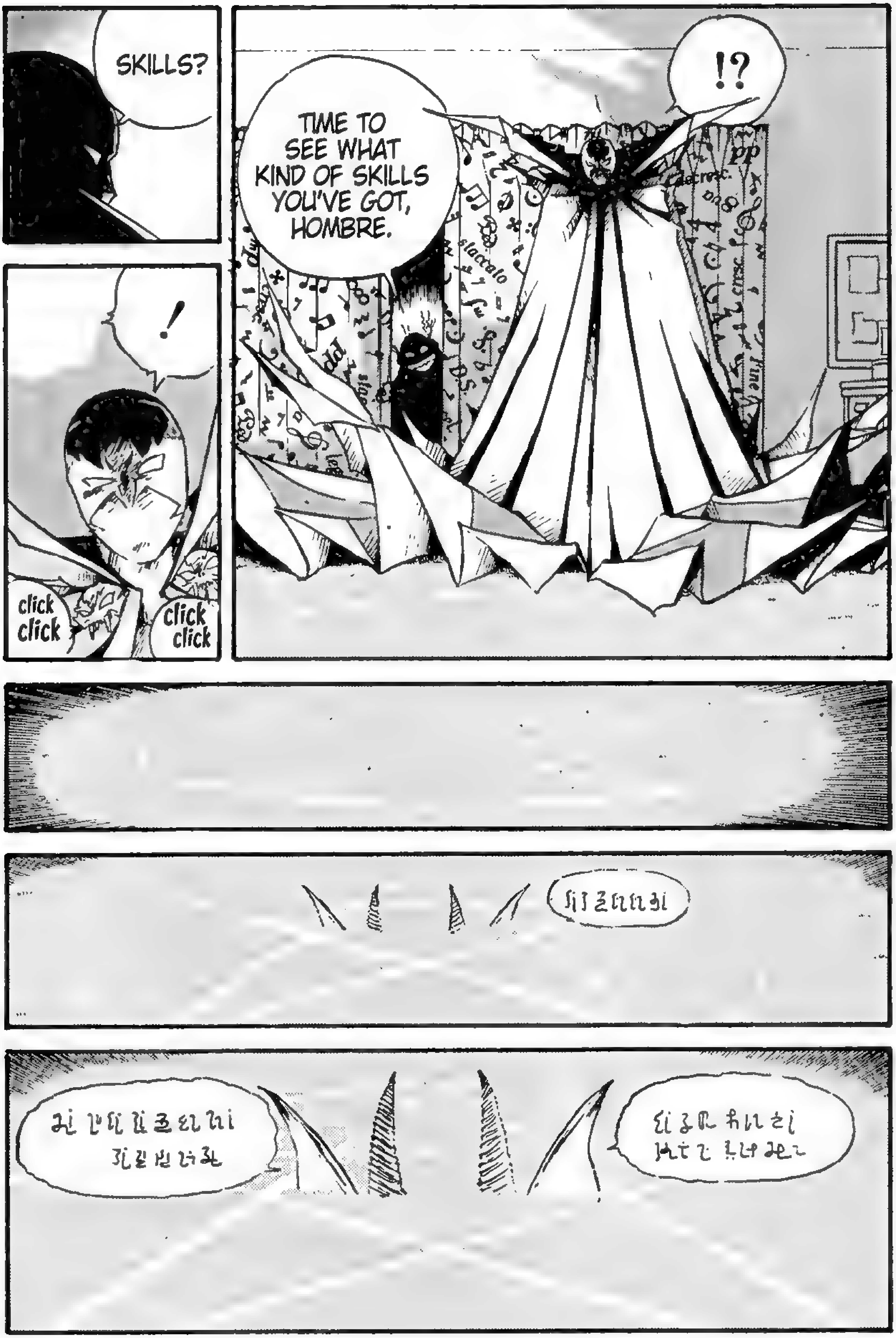
GIVE IT YOUR ALL IF YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOUR PRECIOUS LITTLE SISTER.

APPEAR-ANCE?

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR "HIS" APPEAR-ANCE.

NO TIME TO TELL YOU THE MINU-TIAE OF DULL MAT-TERS.

TOO LATE, BOYO.


SKILLS?
TIME TO SEE WHAT KIND OF SKILLS YOU'VE GOT, HOMBRE.
!?
!
click click
click click

...DEMON!

WH-- WHAT THE HELL IS THAT...

YOU.

WHO ARE YOU?

HMM? WHO'S THERE?

...HELL SPAWN?!

WHY ARE YOU IN THE SAME ROOM AS MY BRIDE...

SHE IS ALREADY MINE.

THAT'S RIGHT. I'VE FULFILLED MY END OF THE BARGAIN. NOW I AM GRANTED MY FREEDOM...

...AND THE GIRL.

BRIDE?

!?

*STAY OUT OF AFFAIRS THAT DON'T CONCERN YOU--*

WHAT KIND OF CRAP IS THAT?

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST CLAIM HER, HEH?

*AND*

# *DIE!*

!

I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS!

WHAT KIND OF A RUBE ARE YOU? FIGHT!

...WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT...

GRNF!

click click

click click

click clack

!?

kchak!

kchak!

kchak!

kchak!

click

click

click

click

click

BATTLE CLAD!

I'M ALMOST IMPRESSED!

THAT'S RIGHT, YA LITTLE *BUG-GERS*. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR *MASTER*.

YOU THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME WITH A CHANGE OF CLOTHES?!

TO HANDLE, A SELF-ABSORBED DEVIL-BEAST, I'D SAY, YEAH.

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT JUST THE RIGHT ASS-KICKIN' BOOTS!

WHOA!

HNGYAAA!

I DON'T THINK SO!

YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST GO OUT AND CLAIM A PERSON?!

WHOO!

WILL YA LOOK AT 'IM GO!

YOU GOING TO DO WITH MARIKO?

NOW. EXAC-TLY WHAT WERE

Nnrg.

Gnrf.

!!

GRAH!

I'LL NOT FORGET THIS, HELL SPAWN. I'LL HAVE MY RE-VENGE!

YOU WILL SEE--

THIS IS NOT THE END, I PROMISE YOU!

VIOLATOR!

YOU--

HEY-HEY-HEY! DON'T LET IT GET AWAY OR YOUR BABY SIS IS GONNA HAVE A *LIFETIME STALKER* ON HER HANDS!

CHAINS THAT RE-ACT TO A MERE *THOUGHT*.

THESE ARE GOING TO COME IN *HANDY*.

!!

*YOU WILL NOT...*

...LAY A FIN-GER...

RIP THOSE NASTY LITTLE *BAT WINGS* RIGHT OUT OF HIM!

THAT'S RIGHT! TAKE AWAY HIS RIDE!

...ON MY SISTER!

!!

THAT'S IT! NOW FILET HIS CARCASS! TEAR HIM A NEW ONE!

GRAAAH!

TEAR IT OFF!!!

TAKE THE *NECK!*

...VIOLATOR...?

WH-
WHY...?

SMASH THE HEAD AND END IT!

HE'S FINISHED!

...UNLESS... MAL... MALEBOL--

MALEBOLGIA--

--MY MASTER--

!

MALEBOLGIA?

!!

YOU WERE SPEC-TACULAR, STUD MAN!

THAT WAS BRIL-LIANT! SIMPLY BRIL-LIANT!

SWOOSH

HNFH!

SWISH

MASTER MALEBOLGIA WILL NO DOUBT BE VERY PLEASED!

BRAVO!

SWISH

MALEBOLGIA. THAT...THING SAID IT JUST BEFORE I KILLED IT.

WHAS-SAMATTER, NEWBIE?

IT'D BE BAD FORM TO FORGET IT...

OF COURSE YOU HAVE!

I KNOW I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BE-FORE.

...MALEBOLGIA.

..TO FORGET THE NAME OF...

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT IT.

IT'S POINTLESS TO DWELL ON SUCH A LONG TALE, NOW.

MALEBOLGIA?

BEFORE WE RETURN TO *NEW YORK* TOMORROW, THERE'S ONE LAST THING I NEED TO SHOW YOU. SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.

I'M GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT...

BUT HAVE YOU TAKEN A GOOD LOOK AT THIS PLACE?!

IT'S NOT GOING TO HELP TO CALL THE POLICE IF THAT'S YOUR STORY.

HOW IN THE *WORLD* CAN'T YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED?

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE POLICE.

REALLY.

I'M SORRY, *CHRIS*, BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.

HMN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN BE SO STRAIGHT-FACED AFTER ALL THIS. ARE ALL JAPANESE SO STOIC?

YOU DON'T *LOOK* HURT OR IN SHOCK, BUT I NEED TO PROTECT THE STAR OF OUR PRO-DUCTION!

THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS.

ALMOST LIKE--

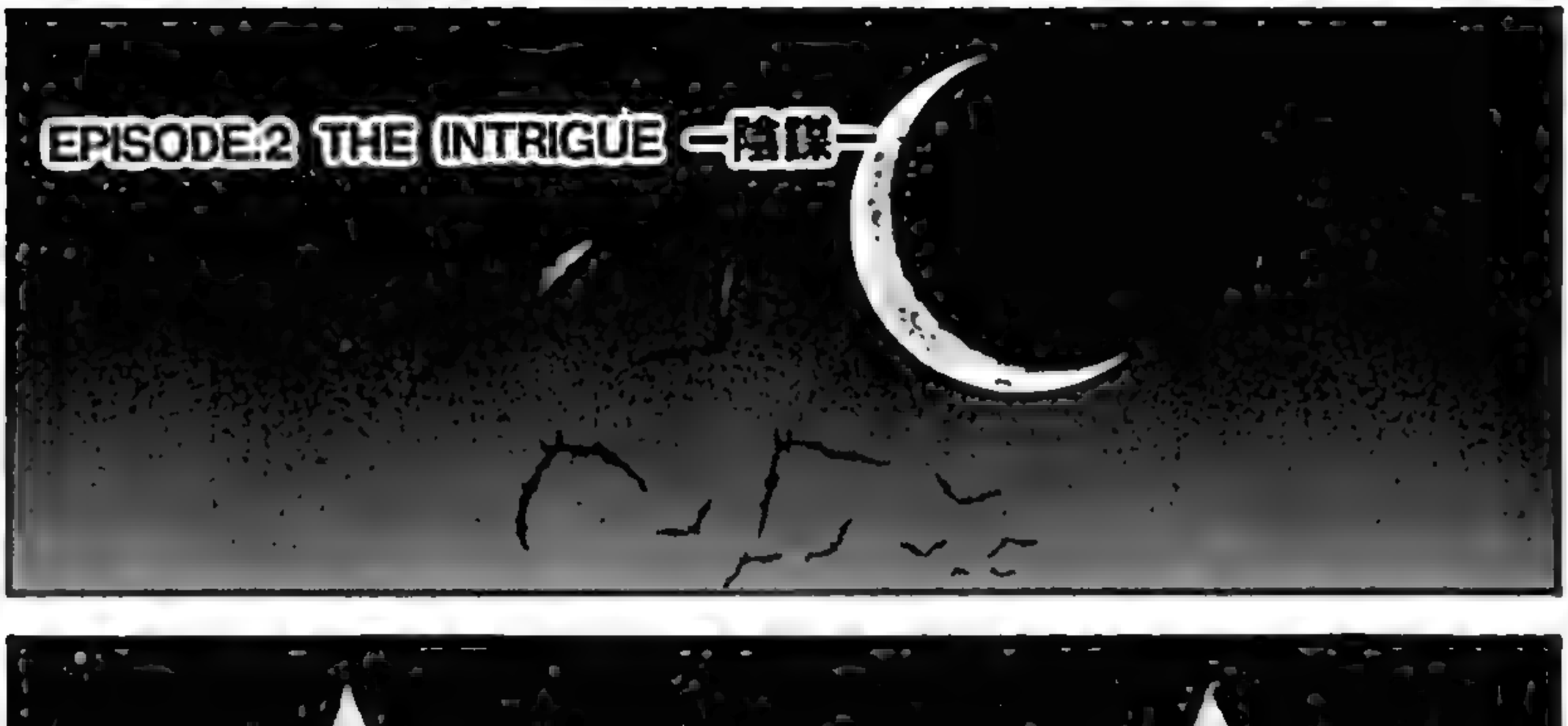
AS IF THERE'S SOMEONE WATCHING OVER ME...

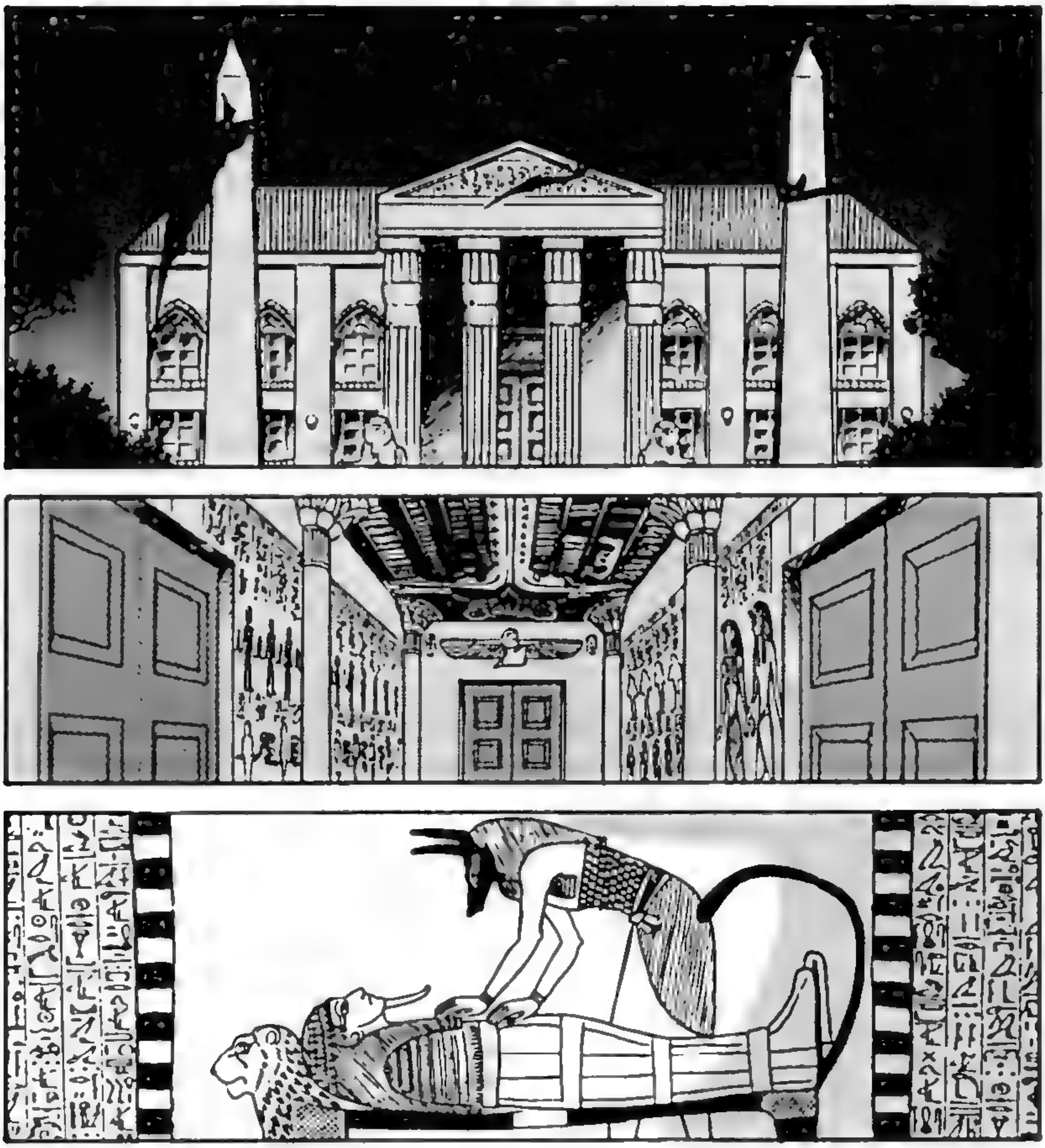
...WON'T LET ANYTHING BAD HAPPEN TO ME...

IT'S STRANGE. I'M REALLY NOT SCARED.

*AT ALL.*

ALMOST LIKE WHEN MY *BIG BROTHER* WAS AT MY BEDSIDE TO TAKE CARE OF ME...


EPISODE:2 THE INTRIGUE —陰謀—



A GIFT TO THE GODS... ...FOR EVER-LASTING LIFE.

ISIS AND OSIRIS THEMSELVES HAVE PICKED THIS OF-FERING.

YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN.

THE TIME HAS COME TO *FREE* THE *SPIRIT* FROM *CORPOREAL* FORM--

*IN THE NAME OF ANUBIS, I CLAIM THEE!*

...HAVE SEAR-CHED...

...I...

I HAVE DONE AS YOU ASKED.

hissss

*LOS ANGELES*- POLICE ARE BAFFLED BY THE STRING OF KIDNAPPINGS OF ONE FEMALE AND ONE MALE *EACH MONTH* FOR THE LAST *SIX MONTHS*...

...YOU MUST SEEK...

...FOUND THE ONE...

-- GONNA BE A BIG STUNT!

-- NEXT GENERATION EYE CANDY!

-- NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE HER--

CRAZY! MAD! COOL! BOSS!

-- WHOA! HO-HO! WE'RE SEE-ING HIS-TORY--

...UNDERSTAND AND OBEY.

I...

-- NO. MAKE THAT FEMALE ACTION STAR--

-- THE NEWEST ACTION STAR--

...THE *MARIKO KUROSAWA* FEATURE INTERVIEW...

MARIKO KURO SAWA

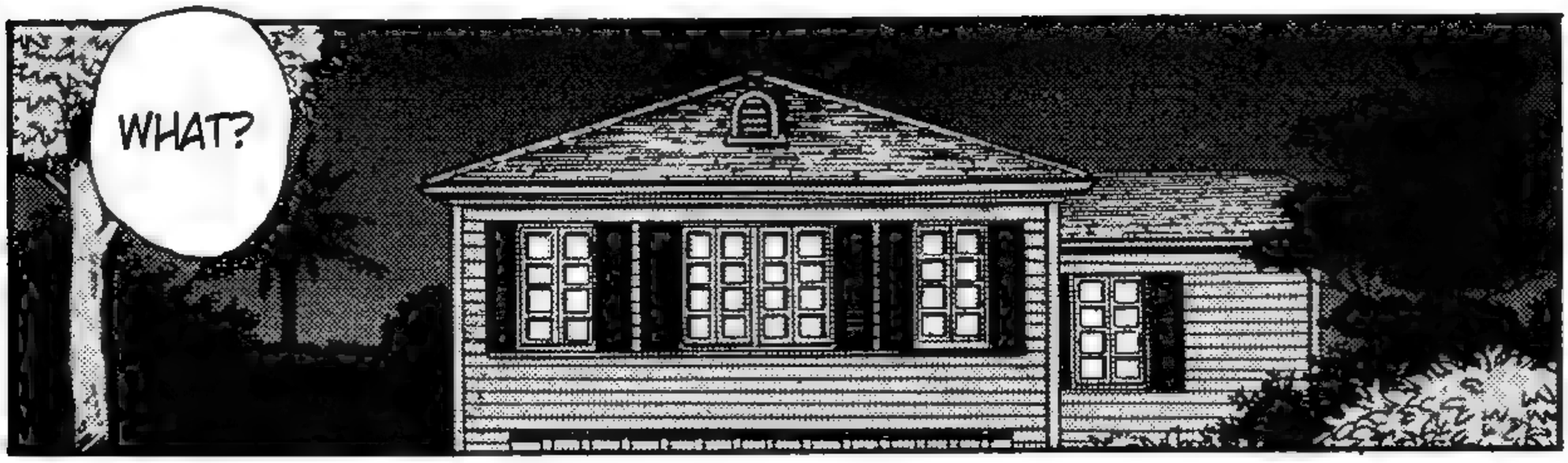
TUNE-IN TO SEE IF SHE'LL DIVULGE WHAT DRIVES HER PASSION FOR LIFE!

...SHE'S THE ONE...

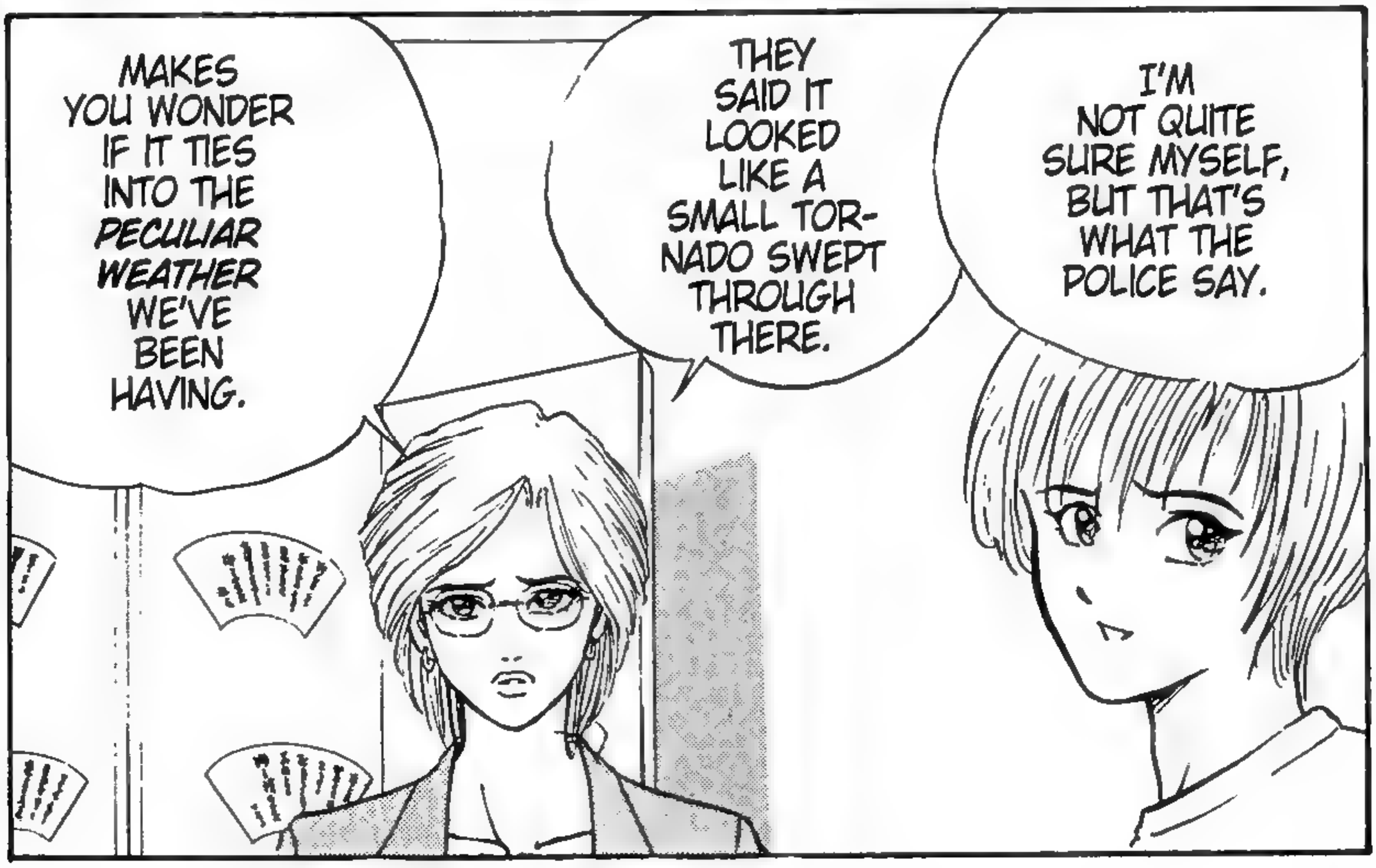
THIS GIRL...

I WILL DO AS YOU ASK. TAKE HER SPIRIT...

...AND PASS THAT ESSENCE ON TO YOU SO THAT YOU MAY RISE AGAIN.


WHAT?

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME HER TV *BLEW-UP* AND DID ALL *THAT DAMAGE?!*
"MICROBURST?" I'M ASSUMING THAT'S FANCY TALK FOR AN "ELECTRICAL PROBLEM".


MAKES YOU WONDER IF IT TIES INTO THE *PECULIAR WEATHER* WE'VE BEEN HAVING.
THEY SAID IT LOOKED LIKE A SMALL TOR-NADO SWEPT THROUGH THERE.
I'M NOT QUITE SURE MYSELF, BUT THAT'S WHAT THE POLICE SAY.

ALL WE NEED TO KNOW IS THAT MARIKO WASN'T HURT.

JUST TRYING TO LIGHTEN THE MOOD. NOT MAKE LIGHT OF--

NOW THAT'S JUST--

...AND THEN COMING BACK TO YOU SO SOON.. IT'S A BIT EMBARAS-SING.

I'M SO SORRY. MOVING OUT LESS THAN A MONTH AGO...

BUT UNTIL THEY FINISH FIX-ING MARIKO'S ROOM, I LEAVE HER IN YOUR GOOD HANDS.

YOU'RE RIGHT!

SAI-SAN WAS WILLING TO SPEND AND USE WHAT-EVER PEOPLE IT'D TAKE TO FIND YOU WHEN HE THOUGHT YOU WERE MISSING.

HE'S RIGHT, MARIKO. THE WORLD IS A DAN-GEROUS PLACE.

WHY JUST MOVE BACK FOR A LITTLE WHILE? WHY NOT JUST STAY?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE DIDN'T WANT YOU MOVING OUT AT ALL.

WE'VE NO CHILDREN OF OUR OWN AND ALWAYS CONSIDERED YOUR COMING TO LIVE WITH US A BLES-SING FROM GOD.

YOUR FATHER AND MY HUSBAND WERE LIKE BROTHERS.

ALL OF MY HAPPINESS...

...MY BROTHER--

NO.

NOT GOD.

...MAYBE WE COULD HAVE--

HAD WE KNOWN SOONER ABOUT THAT SITUATION...

WE ALL READ ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO *KEN* IN THE PAPERS.

HMMN. I UNDER-STAND.

I DIDN'T MEAN IT TO SOUND LIKE THAT!

NO, NO! AUNTIE, UNCLE, I--

BUT I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO SEE YOU HAPPY. YOU HAVE TO BE HAPPY FOR YOU *AND* YOUR BROTHER.

I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ONE THING, MARIKO. I WAS TOO LATE FOR KEN--

RIGHT NOW, I TRULY AM HAPPY.

THANK YOU...

...BOTH OF YOU...

SHE LOOKS... AT PEACE.

MARIKO'S FOUND JOY IN HER NEW LIFE WITH THIS FAMILY.

SEVEN YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT DAY. THAT'S WHAT *THE CLOWN* SAID.

*SEVEN YEARS.*

ON TOP OF IT ALL, ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE AN "INDISPENSIBLE" SKILL THAT CATCHES THE DEVIL'S FAVOR ARE ACTUALLY ALLOWED TO BECOME SPAWN.

THAT IT TAKES *FIVE TO TEN YEARS* TO RECALL A *HELL SPAWN.*

THE ONE CALLED CLOWN DIDN'T GIVE ME NEARLY ENOUGH TO FILL-IN MY LAST SEVEN YEARS.

AND HE'S LEAVING FOR THE MOMENT TO NEW YORK... "TO GET A LITTLE CONTRACT SQUARED AWAY," IS HOW HE PUT IT. GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT THAT MEANS TO A THING LIKE HIM.

THIS DEVIL CALLED *MALEBOLGIA*...

...HE TOOK MY MEMORIES. LEFT ME WITH A FEW SCATTERED SHARDS. DISJOINTED IMAGES.

YET I'M TOLD I POSSESSED ABILITIES THAT HE FOUND WORTH BARTERING FOR.

I'D EARNED THE APPROVING GAZE OF THE DEVIL.

...MARIKO'S COMPLETELY RECOVERED FROM HER ILLNESS, AND THIS FAMILY HAS CARED FOR HER AS THEIR OWN.

BUT DURING MY TIME... ...IN HELL...

AND HIS WIFE, WHO LOVES HER EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS IF SHE WAS HER OWN.

DAD'S BEST FRIEND, *FUSAI YAMA-MOTO* IS HER NEW FATHER.

...WITH FANS SPANNING THE GLOBE...

...INTERESTS AT HEART. SHE'S GOT A BRIGHT FUTURE...

EVEN HER AGENT SEEMS TO HAVE HER BEST...

MARIA

...THEN WHY...

BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...

THERE'S NO MORE REASON TO WORRY FOR HER.

WHY DID I SELL OFF MY *PRECIOUS SOUL?!*

...WHY, EXACTLY, WAS I BROUGHT BACK?

!?

YOU'RE ONE OF THE NEW CHARGES, OF COURSE!

TEE-HEE-HEE. AREN'T YOU THE CUTEST LITTLE FOOL.

OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

YOU *WON'T* BE MADE A *HELL SPAWN* *UNLESS* YOU'RE A DUNDER-HEAD.

*FAERIE?!*

A FA--

"*AMON'S HAND*," AND *GOD OF THE FLIES*" ARE SOME OTHERS.

HUMANS AND THEIR NAMES...

HMPH.

...WHEN I WAS KNOWN BY THAT LITTLE LABEL.

I GUESS THERE WAS A TIME...

CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WANT. THEY'RE ALL NAMES YOU SILLY HUMANS LIKE TO USE. DOESN'T MAKE A LICK OF DIFFERENCE TO ME.

BUT MY FRIENDS CAN CALL ME "*BEE*." DO YOU WANT TO BE MY *FRIEND*?

THESE DAYS, HOWEVER, I'M KNOWN TO MOST AS, **BEELZEBUB.**

OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE JUST DISORIENTED BECAUSE YOU'RE AMASSING YOUR *PSYCHOPLASM*, RIGHT?

PSYCHO-WHAT?

**THE BEELZEBUB?!**

*BEE--* **BEELZEBUB?**

WOW. YOU'RE PRETTY HARD OF HEAR-ING, AREN'T YA?

PHLEB-IAC?

EXACTLY HOW MUCH DID THAT *PHLEBIAC* TEACH YOU?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THAT? IT'S ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE USE-LESS TERMS YOU HUMANS CAME-UP WITH, YOU KNOW.

WE'RE GOING TO DO THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN YOU DID WITH THE PHLEBIAC. I'M NOT ONE OF MALE-BOLGIA'S SUBOR-DINATES...

...SO DON'T GROUP ME WITH THE OTHER GUY OKAY?

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR NOW IS THAT THE *PHLEBIAC* ASKED ME TO PICK-UP YOUR NEXT ROUND OF TRAINING.

...YOU *ARE* A QUICK STUDY.

SO...

...HE LEFT YOU TO BABYSIT ME AND MAKE SURE I STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

MEANING, THE PHLEB-IAC IS THE CLOWN. AND WHILE HE'S IN NEW YORK...

.....

SO TRY NOT TO BE TOO BIG A BOTHER FOR ME, HEH?

THAT SUMS IT UP NICELY.

MS. CLEOPATRA?

WHAT?

TO HAVE AN ORIENTAL CLEOPATRA, I MEAN.

ISN'T THAT KIND OF WEIRD?

IT'S STILL IN EARLY TALKS, OF COURSE.

IT'S A PAGEANT BEING HOSTED BY THE EGYPTIAN TOURIST BUREAU.

FACT IS, OUT THERE, BEING THE MINORITY MIGHT ACTUALLY BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

DON'T BE SILLY! *LOS ANGELES* IS A MELTING POT OF PEOPLE. THE JUDGES WON'T DISCOUNT YOU FOR THAT ALONE.

TO... TOMORROW?

IN ANY CASE, THE JUDGES WANT A MEET AND GREET WITH THE CONTESTANTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE QUITE A SPREAD...

...AND I'M TOLD THE FOOD WILL BE TO DIE FOR.

IT'S GOING TO BE HELD AT THE *WORLD FAMOUS EGYPTOLOGIST, PROFESSOR HAROLD CARTER'S MANSION.*

SOUNDS GOOD!

I'LL BE BY TO-MORROW EVENING, THEN.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE THE *ARCHAEOLOGIST BUFF* AREN'T YOU? THEN THIS WORKS OUT NICELY!

*PROFESSOR CARTER?* I HAVE A NUMBER OF HIS BOOKS.

HNH?

PROFESSOR HAROLD CARTER...

HAROLD CARTER

...I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS!

IS EVERYTHING PREPARED TO YOUR SATISFACTION, MASTER?

OF COURSE IT IS, MASTER. YOUR SKILL IS, AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, EXEMPLARY.

IT'S ABSOLUTELY *EXQUISITE*, DON'T YOU THINK, *HASSAN*?

WHICH IS WHY I'VE PREPARED THIS CER-EMONY TO BE DONE AS IT WAS IN THEIR DAY.

HMN. I JUST WANT TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE GODS OF EGYPT.

I DARESAY EVEN THE PRIESTS OF 5000 YEARS AGO WOULD BE TONGUE TIED.

AND THE EMBALM-ING.

ALL IN THEIR PROPER CANOPIC JARS.

HEART, LUNGS, LIVER, INTESTINES...

...I USE COLORED SILICONE AND PLASTICINE, THUS ENSURING THAT THESE BEAUTIES WON'T HAVE TO HIDE IN DIRTY BANDAGES. THEY CAN BE KEPT IN THEIR PUREST FORM!

INSTEAD OF USING NATURAL PLANT EX-TRACTS AND OILS TO PRESERVE THE BODIES...

IT IS A WORK OF ART!

LOOK! GAZE UPON MY LATEST MASTER-PIECE!

ETERNAL BEALITY, A BODY FOREVER PRESERVED...

THE GODS HAVE CHOSEN A THING OF BEALITY, AND SHE WILL COME TO US.

...AND TOMORROW, THERE WILL BE ONE MORE...

...TO WEL-COMING HER HOME.

I AM VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD...

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?

*OUTSKIRTS OF LOS ANGELES...*

THAT MARIKO NO LONGER HAS ANY NEED FOR ME IN HER LIFE?

*ANSWER ME!* IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT?

THIS IS THE SHARED FATE OF ALL WHO STRIKE A DEAL WITH MALEBOLGIA.

SILLY, ACCIDENTAL RECRUIT... ...WITH A BAD MEM-ORY, AT THAT!

FOR YOU TO JUST REALIZE THAT NOW IS POINT-LESS, ISN'T IT?!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

?

KEEP RUNNING THAT MOUTH THE WAY YOU ARE, I'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG.

BLAH!

GO AHEAD AND DO IT, IF YOU THINK YOU CAN!

LINK!

USUALLY THEY TRY TO CRUSH ME, ONLY TO FIND OUT THEY CAN'T, AND I GIVE THEM A LITTLE PAIN TO LEARN THE LESSON BY. IT'S ALMOST STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE.

HMMM... AREN'T WE A *DIFFERENT KIND* OF HELL SPAWN?

GO AWAY.

!

GO AWAY.

JUST UP AND FLEW RIGHT OUT OF YOUR HAND?

OR DID YOU KNOW I COULD'VE EASILY BROKEN FREE?

NOT LIKELY...

ANOTHER ONE WHO FELL FOR MALEBOLGIA'S OLD BAIT-AND-SWITCH.

HUMPH!

HE REALLY *IS* JUST A LITTLE LOST BIRDLING.

POOR GUY.

EYAH!

YAMAMOTO KARATE

Self defense INSTRUCTION

DOJO

HYA!

I... CONCEDE!

GNRF!

WHEW!

...IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME ONE BIT!

HEH, HEH. SO LONG AS IT'S MARIKO...

IT'S GOT TO BE A LITTLE EMBARASSING LOSING TO A GIRL THAT MANY TIMES!

HEY, *TOSHIO!* DID YOU LOSE AGAIN?!

...THAT YOU'LL ACTUALLY *TRY* TO BEAT ME, OKAY?

JUST PROMISE ME THAT WHEN I GET A LITTLE BETTER...

AND IF YOU EVER NEED MORE PRACTICE, I'M ALWAYS HERE!

ANY TIME!

THANKS, TOSHIO. I'VE GOT A GOOD SWEAT GOING.

YES, SIR. THERE'S A DINNER PARTY FOR WORK I HAVE TO ATTEND.

MARIKO, YOU CALLING IT A DAY ALREADY?

WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO THINK OF IT!

EH? NO. REALLY. I MEAN--

THANKS!

YEP! YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A DOJO FULL OF FANS, HERE!

HEY, HEY. GET OUT THERE AND BREAK A LEG!

CUT IT OUT, GUYS. YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.

MAN! YOU'RE REALLY THE HOLLY-WOOD SUPERSTAR!

WHOO! A PARTY!

THE KARATE SHE'S CAPABLE OF IS A CON-SEQUENCE OF HER BLOOD-LINE INASMUCH AS TRAIN-ING.

I GUESS IN HER CASE, IT'S TRUE.

ACTING NOTWITH-STANDING, SHE'S GOT IMPRESSIVE SKILLS.

I'LL BE GOING NOW...

HMN?

IT'S A CRYIN' SHAME.

SHE WAS SUP-POSED TO BE LEARNING THE BASICS. PRETTY IMPRESSIVE HOW SHE'S ABLE TO DO WHAT SHE CAN.

...WE WOULD HAVE BEEN WITNESS TO ONE OF THE GREATEST MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPIONS ***EVER.***

IF HER BROTHER HADN'T RUN WITH THE WRONG CROWDS AND GOTTEN HIM-SELF KILLED...

kchik

WOW. THE ENTRY-WAY ALONE LOOKS OVER 100 METERS HIGH!

skree

kchik

BUT WILL YOU LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS PLACE? IT'S LIKE WALKING INTO A MUSEUM OR SOMETHING.

I'VE HEARD HIS LINEAGE GOES BACK TO BRITISH ARISTOCRACY.

...IT'S AWFULLY QUIET...

FOR A PARTY...

キシコン

カンコン

HOW MUCH WOULD IT BE WORTH?

I WONDER IF THIS SPHINX IS FOR REAL?

Eep!

gchak!

PLEASE...

...STEP INSIDE...

WELCOME!

THE MASTER HAS BEEN AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL.

UHM, THANK YOU...

TH-THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION...

O-- OKAY...

IF THAT'S THE CASE, DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT WOULD DESECRATE THE DE-CEASED.

C-COME ON. A TOMB?!

THIS PLACE LOOKS LESS LIKE A MU-SEUM, AND MORE LIKE THE INSIDE OF A TOMB.

THEY'RE OF *SETI THE FIRST'S* DESCENT TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD, RIGHT?

THESE IMAGES...

LIKE A TRIP TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD, HEH?

THE MASTER WANTED WRITINGS FROM THE VALLEY OF KINGS TRANSCRIBED INTO THE WALLS IN HIS OWN HOME.

OH, VERY GOOD.

YOU WERE THE ONLY TWO WHO WERE INVITED.

DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

WHERE ARE ALL THE OTHER GUESTS?

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...THE TWO OF US?

JUST...

FOR YOU SEE, "MISS CLEOPATRA" MUST NOT ONLY LOOK THE PART, BUT SHE MUST ALSO SHARE IN HER SPIRIT. THAT IS THE REASON FOR YOUR BEING HERE.

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE BELATED EXPLANATION. I'D HOPED MY AGENTS WERE MORE THOROUGH THAN THIS.

OVER DINNER, IF YOU'RE SO INCLINED.

PRECISELY. I PREFER THE INDIV-IDUAL INTER-VIEWS FOR A PROPER PERSPEC-TIVE.

...AND BEING HOW THE CONTEST WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET INTO SOMEONE'S HEAD--

I SEE.

I TRUST NO ALCOHOL FOR YOU.

BUT YOU, MARIKO.

YES. THANK YOU.

WILL WINE BE ACCEPT-ABLE BEV-ERAGE FOR THE YOUNG MISS?

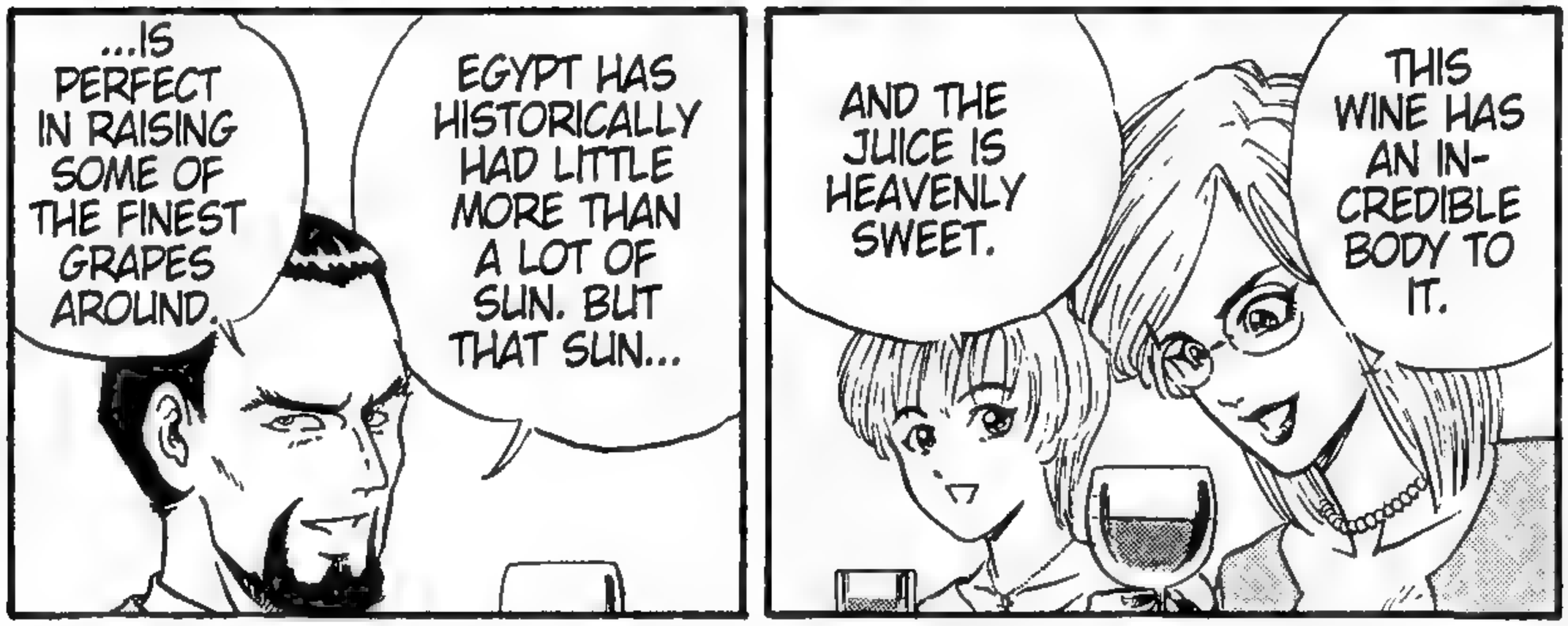
HM....

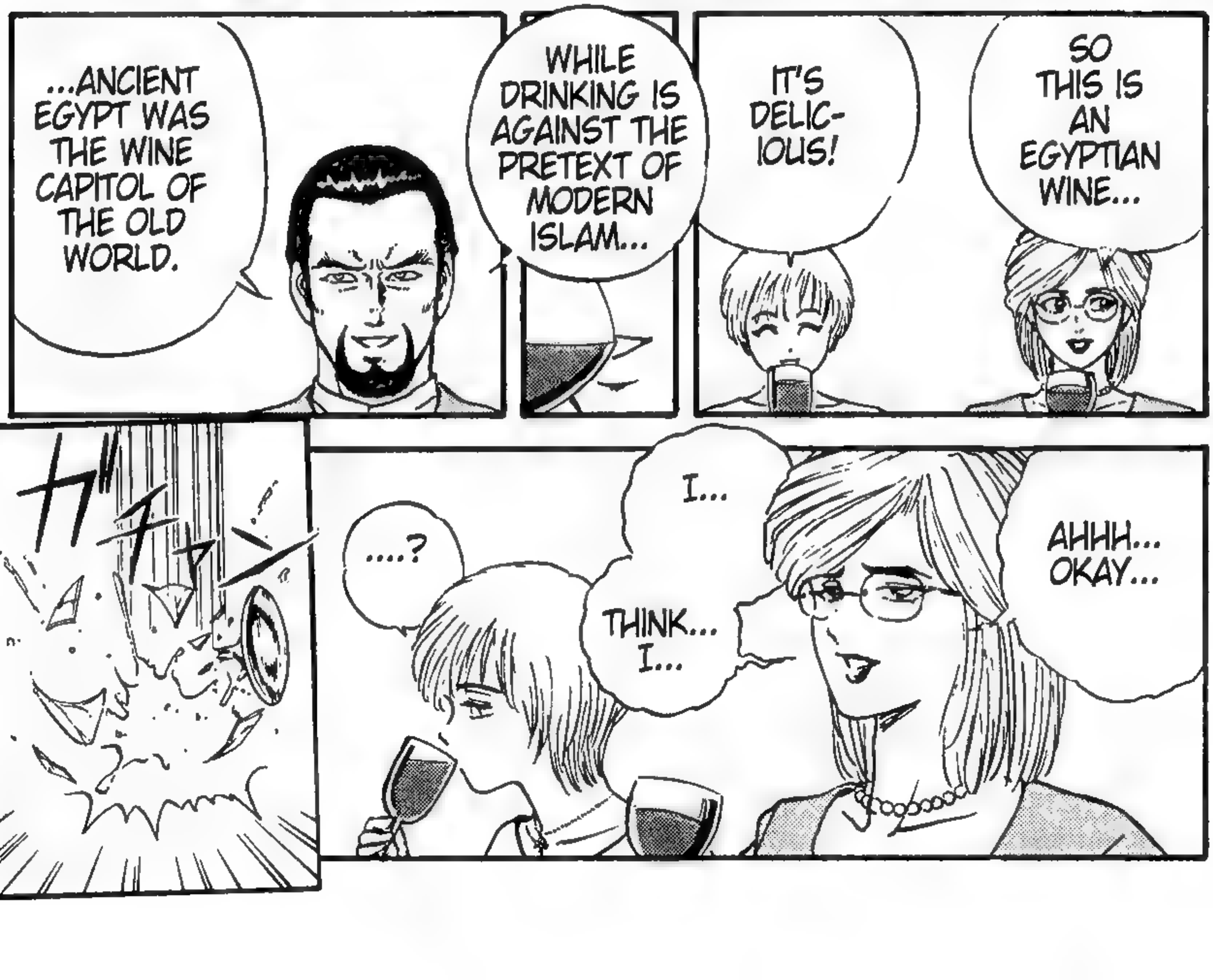
THANK YOU.

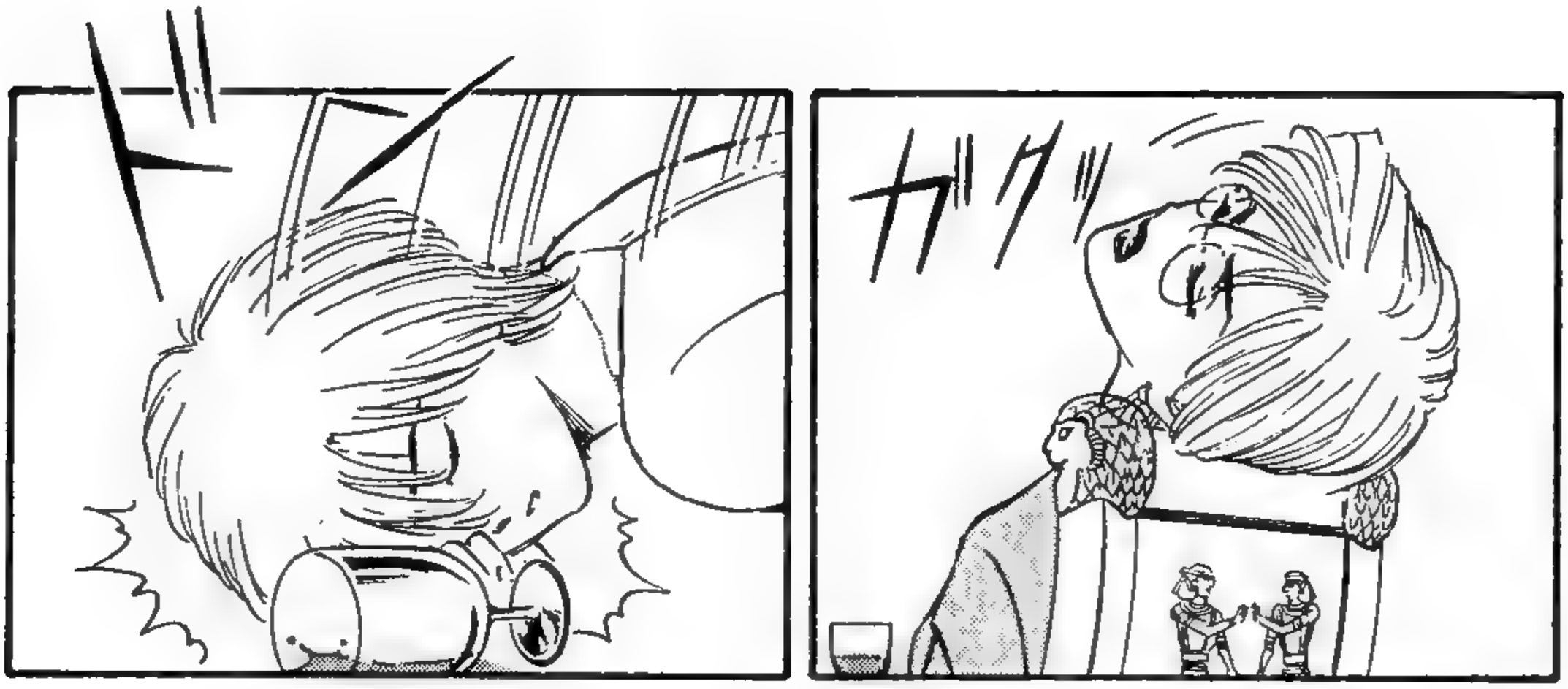
THEN FOR YOU, WE'VE AN EXCEPTION-ALLY DELIGHTFUL, NON-ALCOHOLIC GRAPE JUICE.

NO, SIR. I'M ONLY SIXTEEN.

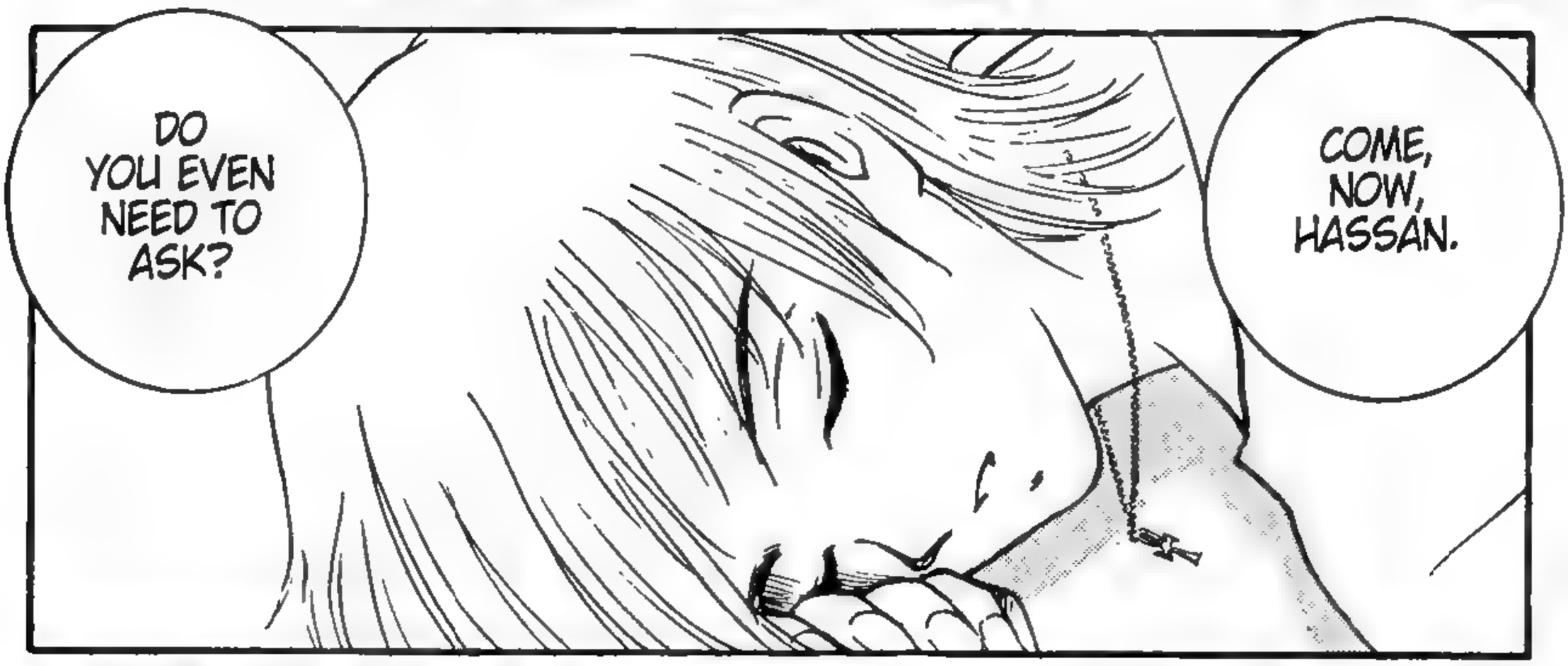
.....
.....


...IS PERFECT IN RAISING SOME OF THE FINEST GRAPES AROUND.
EGYPT HAS HISTORICALLY HAD LITTLE MORE THAN A LOT OF SUN. BUT THAT SUN...
AND THE JUICE IS HEAVENLY SWEET.
THIS WINE HAS AN IN-CREDIBLE BODY TO IT.


...ANCIENT EGYPT WAS THE WINE CAPITOL OF THE OLD WORLD.
WHILE DRINKING IS AGAINST THE PRETEXT OF MODERN ISLAM...
IT'S DELIC-IOUS!
SO THIS IS AN EGYPTIAN WINE...
HHFFF
....?
I...
THINK... I...
AHHH... OKAY...



WHICH ONE?
SO... WHICH SHALL WE START WITH?


DO YOU EVEN NEED TO ASK?
COME, NOW, HASSAN.

I SAID WAIT UP!
HEY!

I SAID HOLD-UP!

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO IN SUCH A RUSH?!

AND THAT REASON CAN ONLY BE *ONE THING!*

IF I'M NOT HERE FOR MARIKO, THEN THAT MEANS I'M HERE FOR SOMETHING ELSE.

REVENGE!

SILLY FOOL. DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU WERE BROUGHT BACK TO TAKE REVENGE ON SOME TWO BIT THUGS?

MALEBOLGIA REALLY HAS YOU TURNED AROUND, DOESN'T HE?

AND NOW THE CIRCLE...

...WILL FINALLY CLOSE.

AS A SACRIFICE OF SOUL AND BODY.

YOU WILL SOON JOIN THE GREAT, ETERNAL OSIRIS IN HIS WORLD.

AND NOW I GIVE THEE TO MY GODS.

I AM ANUBIS!

WITH THE BLESSING OF OSIRIS--

hisss

M--
MASTER?

HNRG!

AGRGH!

?

GRAAAA!

HAGH--

O...
O--

HAAAAA...

MASTER, WHAT'S WRONG?!

OSIRIS!

ARE YOU--

MASTER?

...BLOOD!

...NEED...

I...

HGRRRAH!

BLOOD!

GAAA!

GIVE ME BLOOD!

EYARGH!

ベキッ

バキッ

Thump-Thump

Thump-Thump

# EPISODE:3 THE RESCUE ―救出―

NOOO!

...NO MORE...

P...PLEASE STOP. I BEG OF YOU...

THIS IS A LOT MORE FUN THAN YOU EVER HAD WITH MR. DULL-FACE, HERE.

AW, COME ON, SISTAH.

WE'LL TAKE REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU.

WE'LL EVEN BE YOUR BOYFRIENDS IF YA LIKE!

NOW WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME ON OVER AND PARTY WITH US?

AIN'T NO-BODY GONNA COME HELP YOU, LADY.

AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, IN THIS PART OF TOWN?

SOME-ONE, HELP ME!

N-- NO!

NOOO!

NOW GET OVER HERE AND START BEING GOOD TO US!

WHAT TH--

HMM?

WH-- WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

...BEFORE YOU PROCEED WITH YOUR GOOD TIME.

I'VE A FEW THINGS I NEED TO ASK OF YOU...

HELP ME!

PLEASE HELP ME!

I--

LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THOSE *ZANY MEX-ICAN WRES-TLERS!*

THIS ONE'S A PIECE OF WORK!

WHOO!

WELLLLL, WHOEVER YOU ARE...

.....

.....

OR MAYBE YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SUPERHERO?

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A SPIDER OR A BAT...

ボオオン

...I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOU CAN SURVIVE A .357 NOSEBLEED.

THAT'S *NOT* THE STORY I CAME HERE TO LISTEN TO.

Crunch

SNAP!

RAGH!

BASTARD!

YOU--

?!

HUFF

HUFF

I'M TELLING YOU, WE DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM SEVEN YEARS BACK!

UNHRRG...

WE... WE DON'T KNOW...

ASK THE COPS IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US!

AND THE ONE YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR IS DEAD!

DEAD! GONE! BURIED!

...WE'VE CHANGED LEADERS COUNTLESS TIMES SINCE THEN!

EVEN THE D-BLOCK GANG...

RAHG!

NNGH...

SEVEN YEARS...

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG...

AFTER ALL THIS TIME... COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD, IT'S ALL BEEN FOR NOTHING.

...I'M TOO LATE!

I'M...

I TOLD YOU NOT TO WASTE YOUR ENERGY ON SUCH A POINT-LESS CAUSE.

I CAN'T EVEN TAKE VEN-GEANCE FOR MY OWN MURDER.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GO AWAY.

IT'S THAT LACK OF FORESIGHT MALEBOLGIA PREYS ON, YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE A REAL DENSE ONE, AREN'T YA?

THERE'S NO MORE REASON FOR YOU TO BE HERE!

I'VE NO REASON *TO* LIVE. I'VE NO IDEA *WHY* I EVEN EXIST ANYMORE. I AM... ...*NOTHING.*

bzzz

AS PROMISED BY THE PHLEBIAC.

BUT I'M GOING TO GET PAID FOR THE ONE DAY'S INSTRUC-TION.

WELL, IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT, THAT'S FINE.

*PERSONALLY!*

AND I'M GOING TO COLLECT SAID PAYMENT FROM YOU--

?!

TSWIP

AM I TO BE-LIEVE...

...THAT'S YOUR PAYMENT FOR THE LESSON?

FOR THE "GOD OF FLIES," YOU'RE A LOT *MORE* LIKE A DAMN *MOSQUITO.*

YOU'RE JUST OOZING WITH *PSYCHO-PLASM.*

YOU REALLY ARE A VIRGINAL HELL SPAWN, AREN'T YOU?

HRMM. ABOUT TWO MILES NORTH BY NORTH-WEST, I THINK.

?

SO... I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU ONE MORE LESSON TO SHOW I'M NOT A BAD LITTLE "BEE".

IT WON'T *ITCH*. BUT I'M AFRAID I TOOK IN MORE THAN MY FAIR SHARE.

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD HURRY... ...THOUGH I DOUBT IF WE COULD GET THERE IN TIME TO SAVE "*THE MOST IMPORTANT THING*" TO YOU.

THERE'S A THINNING OF THE CONTINUUM THAT SEPARATES THIS WORLD FROM THAT OF THE SPIRITS. VERY THIN.

*WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?!*

STOP WITH THE RIDDLES.

I... AM...

GRA--!

ANUBIS!

I AM HERE TO LAY CLAIM TO THAT WHICH WAS DEEMED MINE.

GOD AMONG GODS, THE LORD OF THE DEAD!

WHEN PLUTO COMES INTO ALIGNMENT, YOU, TOO, WILL JOIN ME AT MY SIDE.

"IT CAN'T BE" IS A PHRASE I RESERVE FOR MALEBOLGIA'S DOINGS, SO YES.

IT CAN'T BE-- NOT HER!

YOU-

WHAT'S THAT DEVIL PLAYING AT, NOW?!

MAL--

MALEBOLGIA!

...IN MARIKO'S ROOM.

HE'D MENTIONED...

THE CREATURE I FOUGHT...

I REALLY DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT TIME TO BE DISCUSSING THIS, NOW.

WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH *MARIKO*?!

**BEE!**

EVEN FLYING, WE'D BE TOO LATE.

HOW DO I GET TO HER? SHOW ME THE WAY!

**DAMN IT!**

WHAT HAP-PENED TO, "GO AWAY," HUH?

...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GET KILLED FOR IT.

THERE IS ONE WAY...

THE TIME HAS COME...

...TO SEPARATE SOUL FROM BODY...

...IN THE NAME OF ANUBIS!

Shazak!

AND
THAT TRICK
IS CALLED,
**TELEPORTING!**

THE
ONLY WAY TO
MAKE IT IN TIME
IS WITH THIS
LITTLE
TRICK.

AAAH!!

HNH?!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SISTER?!
TH--
THERE'S NO STRENGTH IN MY PUNCH!
- pok -

WEREN'T YOU LIS-TENING?

IIIIDIOT.

I CAN'T MOVE!

MY BODY! I CAN'T--

YOU WON'T BE UP TO SNUFF FOR QUITE A WHILE. I SAID IT'D BE THE DEATH OF YOU.

A *TELEPORTATION* TAKES EVERYTHING OUT OF A *HELL SPAWN*. LEAVES YOU JUST ENOUGH TO STAY ALIVE... SO TO SPEAK.

HMM. NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT HIM, HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE AT FULL STRENGTH.

MEANING?

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

??

"FOR A WHILE?"

IF HE WAS A FULLY TRANSFORMED CREATURE, HE'D HAVE ATTACKED WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.

HE'S JUST A MAN DOPED-UP ON PSYCHOPLASM. HE'S NO SPAWN... BUT HE *IS* PLENTY *CONFUSED.*

...THIS SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

IF HE'S JUST A GUY WITH SOME SPARKS IN HIM...

NOT "HUMAN" AS IN "HELPLESS." THAT PSYCHOPLASM IS SOME POTENT STUFF, YOU KNOW.

THAT MEANS HE'S JUST A MAN WITH A DOG MASK AND A BIT MORE BITE THAN YOUR AVERAGE JOE.

HUMAN?

MARIKO.

!

BUT YOU'VE SEEN THE SACRED CHAMBER--

THIS MATTER DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.

AND FOR THAT, YOU MUST BE KILLED!

click click

click

click click

click click

click click

?!

UNPH!

HNGRAAA!

GROWR!

RRAAAA

NRGH!

RROWR!

HIS TRANS-FORMATION IS COM-PLETE!

IT'S ACTIVATED THE PSYCHO-PLASM IN ANUBIS' BODY!

OH, NO! HE'S RESPON-DING TO THE ARMOR!

BUT NOW, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN HOPE TO DO AGAINST HIM.

TOO BAD. WE DID WHAT WE COULD.

...I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!

I...

UNF!

Crack!

CrUnCh!

SNAP!

!!

chomp!

...EVEN THE BATTLE ARMOR WILL GIVE WAY SOON 'NUFF.

WITH THAT KIND OF PUNISH-MENT...

KRAK!

c-c-clik

WELL, I GUESS THAT MAKES THE SECOND LIFE WE'VE LOST TONIGHT.

POOR GUY.

IF ALL THE PSYCHO-PLASM IN YOUR BODY IS LOST...

...IT'S GAME OVER FOR GOOD.

HER FATE WILL BE IN ANUBIS' HANDS--

OF COURSE THAT WON'T SAVE YOUR SISTER.

JUST LOSE CONSCIOUS-NESS AND DRIFT AWAY INTO THE DARK.

BUT THAT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT? YOU'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE.

twitch

!!

WHA--

I DIED ONCE...

THAT'S IT!

...THAT TIME...

...IS NOW!

...TO KEEP MARIKO SAFE...

...AND I CAME BACK...

DO YOU THINK I'D FAIL A SECOND TIME, BY DYING AGAIN?!

...HE...

WHAT... IS...

OPEN WIIIDE!

GA--

GR--

GAAA

RRAAA

IS THAT EVEN POS-SIBLE?!

HE'S *REVERSING* THE FLOW OF THE PSYCHOPLASM FROM THE CREATURE BACK TO HIMSELF!

KYYRAK!

AGAA--

GNAA?

GAWAA!

YOU *SONNUVA BITCH!*

*TRIED TO KILL MY SISTER--*

*YOU WILL PAY DEARLY FOR THAT!*

ズズズ...

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU *LIVE*?!

I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU, YET!

ANYONE WHO'D HARM MARIKO...

...WILL NEVER, EVER...

GRAOOOO

...LIVE TO TRY AGAIN!

WHERE AM I?

HELLO?

H--

A...

OW.

HEAD... HURTS...

ウィン ウィン...

UNHHH

...IS...

...THIS?

WHAT...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

FORGET THAT. I NEED TO KNOW--

BEE!

I MAY HAVE TO CHANGE MY OPINION OF YOU.

IMPRESSIVE!

WHAT'S GOING ON, HERE?

THEN THAT MEANS--

ONCE THE VESSEL HOLDING THAT PSYCHOPLASM IS BROKEN...OKAY, *KILLED*...THEN THE CREATURE REVERTS TO ITS *ORIGINAL* FORM.

I TOLD YOU HE WASN'T A FULL-BLOODED DEMON. HE WAS A HUMAN HOPPED-UP ON PSYCHO-PLASM.

...OF A HUMAN BEING?!

I TOOK THE LIFE...

!!

THIS IS A BIT OF A COMPROM-ISING SIT-UATION.

MORE TO THE POINT, BE-HIND YOU...

KYAAA AAAAA

# EPISODE.4 THE SUFFERING —苦悩—

NICE LITTLE HIDEAWAY YOU PICKED-OUT FOR YOURSELVES, HERE. SUPER LOW-PROFILE AND DECENT ACCESS TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA BY BACK-STREETS.

THE INTERIOR DECOR IS QUAINT, AND YOU'VE GOT A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF EVERYTHING AROUND YOU FOR MILES. VERY NICE, INDEED!

AWWW, AND YOU EVEN MADE YOURSELF A LITTLE BED IN THE CORNER... HEY. YOU LIS-TENING TO ME?

RCILESS MURI

n archeologist

Police have no comment on the matter. Up and coming Hollywood newcomer, **Mariko Kurosawa**, was a witness at the scene. She stated for an interview she saw a **masked man** over the deceased...

**World famous Egyptologist, Harold Carter**, was found murdered in his secluded, Los Angeles mansion. He was found wearing ceremonial garb and masks suggesting cultists.

THE INTE
THE INTERNA

THE SISTER YOU NEARLY GOT KILLED TO SAVE NOW FINGERING YOU AS THE MUR-DERER!
HOW IRONIC IS THAT?

HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!

SHUT-UP!

AND KILLING ME WOULD ACCOM-PLISH WHAT, EXACTLY?

LIM-HMM.

...FROM YOUR MURDER TO "ANUBIS," *HE'S* THOUGHT OF IT ALL.

BUT I'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO HIM...

DON'T PUSH IT.

*HE'S BEEN CREATING ALL THESE "SIT-UATIONS"? PLAYING ME LIKE SOME KIND OF SOCK PUPPET?!*

YOU MEAN, *MALEBOLGIA!*

"HE?"

HE RES-URRECTS ME ONLY TO TAUNT ME IN A PRIVATE HELL ON EARTH? IT MAKES NO SENSE!

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF HIS DOING ALL THIS TO ME?!

BEE!

AFTER ALL, I'M ONLY YOUR SUB-STITUTE TEACHER.

NOW, NOW. I CAN'T GO ON TELLING YOU EVERY-THING.

HIS REAC-TIONS SHOULD BE AM-USING.

MAYBE I'LL DO IT MYSELF!

IT DON'T BUG ME NONE.

TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW!

HIS IDEA OF *SINISTER* IS LIKE A TORRENT OF FLIES IN TERMS OF MAGNITUDE!

*THAT ALL-BODY, NO-ASS, SMALL-HEADED,* **BASTARD** *OF A DEVIL!*

*WHAT* ARE YOU?!

WHO--

VIOLATOR?

IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?!

VIOLATOR?

THAT'D MEAN YOU'RE--

TRUE FORM?

PROBABLY DON'T REC-OGNIZE ME IN MY TRUE FORM, DO YOU?

YOU TWIP.

BUT... NOT QUITE THE CLOWN FROM BE-FORE...

THE *CLOWN!*

SO...

HE...LOOKS SMALLER THAN I REMEMBER...

SO WHAT HAPPENED?

TRAPS ME IN THIS INFERNAL, FAT, OILY, DISGUSTING FORM FOR ALL THESE YEARS AFTER ALL THE FAITHFUL SERVICE I--

NOTHING HAPPENED! THAT VILE, WICKED, MEAN-SPIRITED S.O.B. IS JUST... ***ARGH!***

?

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! I'VE BEEN WRONGED!

"SPAT?!?!"

YOU SH!T-SUCKIN' FLY QUEEN--

YOU HAVE A SPAT WITH MALEBOLGIA OR SOMETHING?

THIS GUY WAS THE REAL "*INDIANA JONES*" DEAL. TRAVELED THE WORLD AND BROUGHT SOME OF IT BACK HERE.

WELL, THE WITNESS IS UNDERSTANDABLY IN A GOOD DEAL OF SHOCK.

ABOUT WHAT I FIGURED.

DOUBTFUL.

BUT TO SAY THE GUY WAS ONLY A PROFESSOR...

WAY TOO MANY QUESTIONS, AND THE ANSWERS ARE MAKING MORE QUESTIONS.

DON'T CARE WHAT THEY WANT US TO SAY. THIS WHOLE THING STINKS.

BUT TO HAVE CLEARED THE YARD AND THEN THE WALL...

THE WINDOW TO THE GARDEN, I CAN BUY.

THE WIT-NESS SAYS THE ASSAILANT LEAPT THROUGH THE WINDOW AND OVER THE WALL.

THIS ATTACKER HAVE WINGS OR SOME-THING?

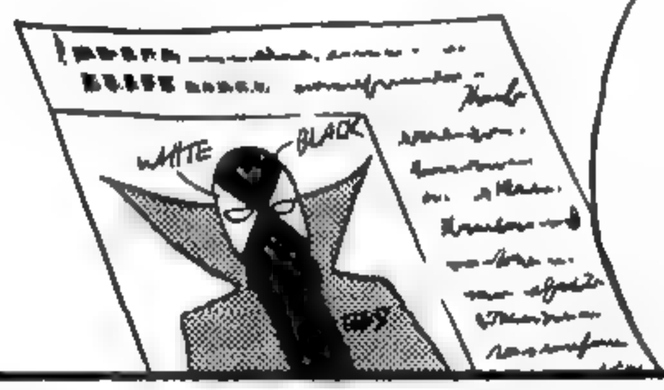
THE WALL'S A GOOD FIVE METERS HIGH. AND ABSENT A LAD-DER--

THE PRE-LIMINARY TOXICOLOGY SAMPLES ARE COMING BACK NEGATIVE...

ANY RESIDUES OF ANY GAS OR NERVE AGENTS HAVING BEEN USED?

THE WITNESS' MANAGER WAS ALSO FOUND ON THE PREM-ISES, UNCONSCIOUS AND UNABLE TO RECALL ANYTHING OF USE TO US.

...IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SOMETHING WASN'T PUMPED INTO THE AIR... OR AT THE VERY LEAST, IN THEIR DRINKS.




...BUT GIVEN THE PERP DESCRIPTION GIVEN TO OUR SKETCH ARTIST...

A LITANY OF MOB BOSSES BEING TERRORIZED, OR WORSE, BY A "MASKED MAN".

REAMS OF REPORTS, ALL OUT OF *NEW YORK.*

INSPECTOR! WE JUST GOT A HIT ON THE... "SKETCH."

THAT GOES WITH-OUT SAY.

"BLACK COSTUME, WHITE FACE MARKS, RED HIGHLIGHTS..." SOUNDS LIKE OUR GUY, DOESN'T IT?

*YOU'RE KID-DING!*

WHAT KIND OF FREAKSHOW DID WE JUST STUMBLE INTO?

*BUT IN NEW YORK?!*

*NEW YORK!*

THAT'S RIGHT!

SUCH IMPUDENCE MUST BE PUNISHED, OF COURSE, AND I WAS READY TO METER OUT THE MEDICINE FOR THE BAD, BAD LITTLE TURK.

NEW YORK... THAT YOUNG BUCK, AL SIMMONS THOUGHT HE'D TRY AND GIVE THE VIOLATOR A WOEFULLY MISGUIDED THROWDOWN!

BUT THAT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH. HE FROZE ME IN THAT FATARD, HEAVING BODY AND JACKED ME OF MY ACCUMULATED POWER!

THEN "HE" INTERVENED. FIXED-UP THE BROKEN WING I GAVE NEW YORK'S HELL SPAWN!

EVEN FOR THE DEVIL.

THAT WAS JUST BEING AN ASS.

HM, HM, HM. I AM, IF NOTHING ELSE, PATIENT.

...MAYBE IN HIS 800 YEAR STUPOR BEING THE BIGSHOT, HE DIDN'T THINK LITTLE OL' ME COULD AMASS THAT LEVEL OF STRENGTH.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

AN ARM, TO BE EXACT. THE BEAUTY OF BEING ME IS THAT IF ANY PART SURVIVES...

I SMELLED A TRAP IN THIS MISSION, SO I LEFT A LITTLE PIECE OF MYSELF IN A BACKSTREET ALLEYWAY.

IT HAS THE CAPACITY TO GROW. ALL EXERIENCE AND SKILLS ARE RETAINED. EVERY SHRED OF KNOWLEDGE, REMEMBERED.

THE *PHLEBIACS* ARE TIME-HONORED WARRIORS AMONGST OUR KIND!

NO WAY IN HIGH HEAVEN WAS I GOING TO STAY TRAPPED IN THAT SMELLY FAT FLESH SUIT. NOT ME!

HEH HEH

AND THAT'S HOW I CAME TO REGAIN MY TRUE FORM ONCE AGAIN!

HE'S A "CHIBI-LATOR!"

A "MINI ME" DEMON. WHAT'S NEXT?

SO CUTE!

SO YOUR BODY'S NOW MADE OF A WHOLE *ARM*?!

YOUR HOUSE IS SUBODINATE TO HIS, IF *MEMORY* SERVES...

YOU CAN'T GO AROUND TICKING-OFF MALEBOLGIA LIKE THAT.

OH, NOTHING. JUST REMIN-ISCING OVER A *LITTLE* MEMORY...

WHAT'D YOU SAY?

WILL HE JUST LEAVE YOU ALONE, NOW?

...NOT THAT I'M A PART OF THIS...

I WONDER IF HE'D SEE IT THE SAME WAY?

I'VE PAID BACK MY DEBT TO THAT FRAGGER A LONG TIME AGO!

SHADDUP! THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!

I'M NOT SO STUPID AS TO THINK THAT. STOP TALKING AS IF I WAS!

OF COURSE, NOT!

DISCUSS?

!?

ANYWAY, THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. TO *DISCUSS* THIS "SITUATION" WITH YOU.

YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR *BODYGUARD* UNTIL YOU CAN REGAIN YOUR STRENGTH?! AFTER YOU ALMOST LET ME GET KILLED... AGAIN?!

A BODYGUARD.

MOREOVER, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO GET INTO THAT DEMON-ASS' HEAD. LEARN WHAT MAKES HIM TICK. GIVE YOU WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO GET BY HIM... ...AND ULTIMATELY GET WHAT YOU WANT.

AH, BUT IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR PUGILISTIC LEANINGS, I'LL BE YOUR PERSONAL COACH. I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT BEING A HELL SPAWN!

YOU SHARE WHAT'S KNOWN AS MALEBOLGIA'S ***CURSE***.

MALEBOLGIA HAS SPECIAL PLANS FOR YOU. BIG PLANS. HE DIDN'T JUST TAKE YOUR BODY AND HOLD YOUR SOUL HOS-TAGE...

YOU LIS-TENING, BOY? YOUR SITUATION IS UNIQUE, EVEN AMONG THE UNDEAD.

HE'S LOOKING TO HAMMER THAT BODY OF YOURS INTO OBLIVION. ONCE THAT HAPPENS, YOUR BONDS TO HIM WILL BE FOR ALL ETERNITY.

CURSE .....

AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU KNOW YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A CHOICE...

TAKE ME UP ON MY OFFER AND I'LL SHOW YOU THE BIG PICTURE.

BLACK AND RED SUIT. BLACK AND WHITE MASK. WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

I CAN'T SEE THIS AS ANYTHING BUT A SERIAL KILLER.

L.A.P.D.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOUNDED 1781

HMN?

INSPECTOR! CHIEF WANTS A WORD WITH YOU IN HIS OFFICE.

WHAT DO THE CHICAGO BULLS HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING, SIR?

BLACK. RED. WHITE.

HMMN. ALL BULLS COLORS.

WHAT?

WE APPRECIATE YOUR WORK ON THIS MATTER UP TO NOW. BUT AS I'VE EXPLAINED TO YOUR CHIEF, THIS INVESTIGATION IS NOW IN OUR CARE.

THIS M.O. BEARS A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO A CASE WE'VE BEEN MONITORING FOR SOME TIME.

C.I.A.?

AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION OF THE MATTER HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFERRED.

CHIEF!

CONSIDER IT A BLESSING. WE'VE GOT TOO MUCH TO DO IN THIS TOWN, AS IT IS. C.I.A. WANTS TO TAKE THIS CASE, WE LET THEM TAKE THE CASE.

BUT--

...THAT WE WILL BE ARRIVING WITH OUR OWN SPECIALIZED INSTRUMENTATION WITH WHICH TO PROCESS THE CRIME SCENE.

BEFORE I GO, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR MEN ON SITE...

.....
.....

I'LL HAVE THE ORDER ISSUED STRAIGHT-AWAY.

THERE'S NO MIS-TAKING IT.

VERY WELL. NOTIFY THE *PENTAGON*.

SENSORS ALSO DETECT IONIC DISTURBANCES INDICATIVE OF A CONTINUUM SHEAR.

PSYCHOPLASM SIGNATURE CONFIRMATION. VERY POTENT READINGS, AT THAT.

PROJECT IMPACT ZONE IS TO BE DEMARKATED AS...

*OPERATION "ANGEL CITY"* IS NOW OFFICIALLY GREENLIGHTED.

*..ALL OF LOS ANGELES.*

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME...

WHAT KIND OF--

THAT ANUBIS...

...THE FIRST DEMON...

...THAT *NONE OF THEM WOULD BE AFTER HER?!*

...IF I *HADN'T* RETURNED, MARIKO *WOULDN'T* HAVE--

"YOU GET WHAT YOU ASKED FOR," ONLY NOT IN THE WAY YOU WANTED THE GETTIN'. IT'S THE ETERNAL CYCLE. THE WAY IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.

SUUUCH IS THE NATURE OF THINGS WHEN MAKING DEALS WITH THE DEVIL. DIDN'T GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, DID YOU?

YOU'LL BE REBORN ANEW, AGAIN AND AGAIN, EACH TIME LOSING JUST A BIT *MORE* OF WHAT YOU ONCE WERE.

AND WHEN THE LAST OF YOUR JUICE IS SPENT, IT'S RIGHT BACK TO HIS HIGH-NESS' PIT FOR A RECHARGE.

HE'LL FORCE YOU INTO FIGHTS. TO GET YOU TO USE YOUR ***POWER*** UNTIL YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A HUSK.

EXPECT MALEBOLGIA TO HAVE A HEAVIER HAND IN MATTERS FROM NOW ON.

*BUT BY THEN, YOU'LL BE LITTLE MORE THAN A DRONE IN HIS ARMY!*

YOUR SKILLS AS A FIGHTER WILL AUGMENT A MILLIONFOLD FOR THE WAR FOR WHICH YOU WERE CREATED.

BUT DESPERATE SOULS WILL DO DESPERATE THINGS WHEN THEIR TIME FINALLY COMES. "ETERNITY" IS A CONCEPT NO HUMAN MIND CAN TRULY COMPREHEND, SHORT-SIGHTED AS MOST OF YOU ARE.

THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO STRIKE A BARGAIN WITH THE DARK SIDE. TRUTH TO TELL, WE NEVER SAID OTHER-WISE.

..... ..... THEN...

AFTER ALL, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP YOU FIGHTING, RIGHT?

YOUR POOR SISTER ONLY GOT WRAPPED-UP IN THIS AS A TOOL TO KEEP YOU ON A LEASH.

...I...

I...

RRRRRAAAG!!

AYA?

IS IT ALRIGHT TO LET HIM GO LIKE THAT?

HE NEEDS TO LEARN ABOUT HIS NEW LIFE, SO IT DON'T BUG ME NONE!

LIFE'S TOUGH, SISTER! REALITY'S A BITCH.

YOU THINK THE TRUTH WAS A LIL' TOO MUCH TO WRAP HIS TOR-MENTED LITTLE HEAD AROUND?

-ah- -ha- -ha!

HE FLEW THE COOP!

...OF *MALEBLGIA'S* CURSE.

IT'S ALL GOOD. I DIDN'T EVEN GET AROUND TO THE TRUE GRIT...

THE BATTLE WITH ANUBIS SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM, BUT HE WAS ABLE TO PULL STRENGTH FAR BEYOND WHAT WE KNOW HE SHOULD POSSESS.

HE DOESN'T YET REALIZE HIS FULL POTENTIAL.

HMM?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

*HELL'S ASSASINS?* HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR *AMATEUR BODYGUARD* WOULD FARE AGAINST ONE OF *THEM?*

STILL, HE'S PRETTY MUCH FLYING BLIND AND ON HIS HUMAN INSTINCTS. BESIDES, YOU KNOW WHO'LL BE COMING, RIGHT?

MOREOVER, WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO IF ONE WERE TO SUD-DENLY APPEAR *HERE*...WHILE YOUR BODY-GUARD IS *OUT THERE?*

-ULP-

WOOSH
HEEERE, CHICKY-CHICKY! WHERE'D YOU RUN OFF TO?!?!

IT'S QUITE AMAZING, EVEN BY TODAY'S STANDARDS.

A SHORT 10 YEARS AGO, I'D NEVER BELIEVE WE'D COME SO FAR.

STILL...

"SCIENCE" DOESN'T QUITE COVER THE WORK WE'RE A PART OF. IT'S A NEW "CRAFT," REALLY. A MERGING OF MANY DISCIPLINES, AND SOME NEW ONES BESIDES!

A MISNOMER.

THAT IN THIS AGE OF SCIENCE, WE COULD CREATE SUCH A...THING.

THAT'S WHY WE PROCEED IN *CALCULATED STEPS.*

...IT BEGS TO ASK IF WE'RE ADEQUATELY PREPARED FOR THE *UNTHINKABLE.*

FOR HUMANS TO BE MEDDLING IN THE MATTERS OF NATURE...

HE IS THE *FIRST* OF HIS KIND, AFTER ALL.

THE FIRST *PSYCHOPLASM-IMBUED SOLDIER.* OUR CROWN JEWEL IN AN ALREADY IMPRESSIVE ARMORY. SHALL WE PROCEED?

CORNER OF "B" BLOCK AND "Q". *LOCKED.*

ISOLATING STRONGEST PSYCHOPLASM SIGNATURE.

TARGET AQUIS-ITION!

# EPISODE.5 SELF-DEVOTION —献身—

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES...

OF COURSE, THIS CAUSED QUITE THE PANIC.

AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY, AN *"OUTWORLDER"* MADE HIMSELF KNOWN. A MAN WHO WAS, AT THE TIME, IN THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE *PENTAGON HIER-ARCHY.*

MY COLLEAGUES AND I, MEN OF "SCIENTIFIC FACT" CAST ASIDE ALL OUR TRAINED INHIBITIONS. EVERY-THING WE'D EVER DREAMED OF DOING, HE GAVE US THE MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH IT. OUR ONLY LIMITATION WAS THAT OF OUR COLLECTIVE IMAGINATIONS.

THIS "MAN" PROCEEDED TO SHOW US NEW "SCIENCES"... NO. MORE LIKE "SCIENTIFIC TRICKS" THAT COULD BE USED TO CIRCUM-VENT THE LIMITATIONS OF THE NATURAL ORDER OF THE UNIVERSE AS WE'D COME TO UNDERSTAND IT.

*TREMOR II.*

THIS IS PROOF OF OUR EFFORTS.

HE IS THE PERFECT FUSION OF ORGANIC TISSUE AND INORGANIC COMPONENTRY.

BEHOLD, COLONEL. OUR FIRST PSYCHO-PLASM-DERIVED CREATION! HE IS THE FIRST OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES.

WE'VE MADE REAL THE CLONE-CYBORG ORGANISM.

ROBOTICS, CYBORGS, SIMPLE ORGAN TRANSPLANTS. ALL SUFFERED VARIOUS LEVELS OF REJECTION REACTIONS. THE OUTWORLDER SHOWED US HOW TO REMOVE THIS BARRIER.

WHAT OF THE FIRST CLONE MADE OF THE NEW YORK MAFIA MAN?

SO THIS IS TREMOR 2.

HE TURNED THE WORLDS OF BIOLOGY AND PHYSICS ON THEIR HEADS. ALLOWED US TO SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATE ORGANIC WITH NON-ORGANIC MATERIALS AS EASILY AS ONE MIGHT PIECE TOGETHER A JIGSAW PUZZLE. OUR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED.

DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF OVER THAT MATTER. THE BOSS OF THE NEW YORK SYNDICATE, IS AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO KEEP ANY MAFIA-ARMY TIES UNDER TIGHT WRAPS.

SO NOW WE'RE DELVING INTO REALMS THAT HUMANS ALONE COULDN'T POSSIBLY DREAM OF EVER ENTERING ON THEIR OWN...

OUR BENEFACTOR HAD SEEN TO THOSE DETAILS...

THERE ARE NO FORMAL OR INFORMAL CONNECTIONS THAT CAN LEAD BACK TO US.

WHY SHOULD THEY BE THE ONLY ONES WITH ACCESS TO THIS TECHNLOGY? HOW DO WE FARE IN R&D AGAINST THE OTHERS?

*JASON WYNN.* THE *C.I.A.*

vroom

MACH

TONIGHT IS A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE!

IN TERMS OF "PRACTICAL" APPLICATIONS AND MASS PRODUCTION, WE'RE BETTER PLACED THAN EITHER OF THEM.

GET US TO WITHIN 150 METERS.

ALL RIGHT.

SIR. WE'RE 450 METERS FROM TARGET.

UNDERSTOOD. ADMINISTERING *PRELIMINARY CEREBRAL ELECTRO-STIMULI.*

DOCTOR. PLEASE PREPARE OUR NEW TOY FOR HIS FIRST NIGHT OUT.

UH

PI

PI

HE'S NOW SET TO ACTIVATE IN 120 SECONDS.

NOW ADMINISTERING *STAGE TWO CERBRAL STIMULI!*

TARGET IS AT 300 METERS.

!?

LASTLY, TIME TO ACTIVATE HIS NEURO-MUSCULAR JUNCTIONS-

TARGET NOW AT 200 METERS.

WHAT TH--?!

EMERGENCY

IMPOSSIBLE! HE SHOULDN'T EVEN BE CONSCIOUS!

!?

YOU FEEL THE TRUCK SHAKE JUST NOW?

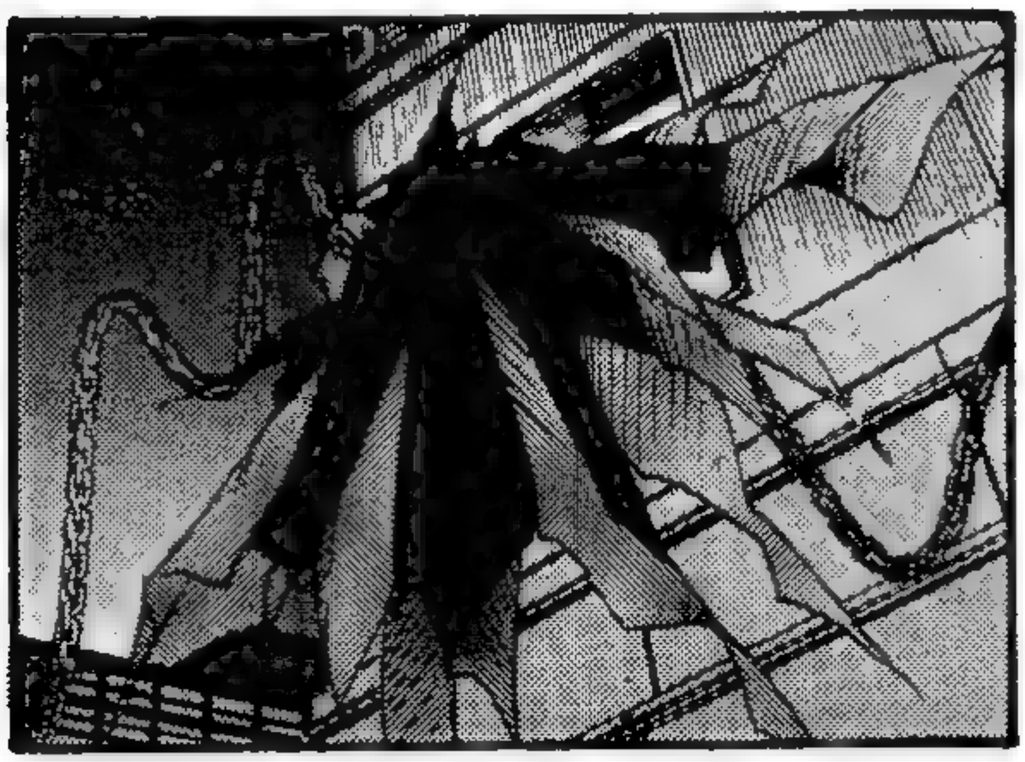
Thud!

Thud!

GAH!

skreeeee

WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF



GRRRRR

EXPLOSION?
?

CAR ACCIDENT? WITH THIS KIND OF DAMAGE, THE LIKE-LIHOOD OF SURVIVORS--

CRASH

GRRRRR

I'M FEELING A LITTLE SCRAPPY MYSELF.

FINE.

MALEBOLGIA AT HIS TRICKS AGAIN.

SO THAT'S IT.

LET'S DANCE.

GRROORR

OH, SURE, YOU'RE CALLED A HELL SPAWN, BUT YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A *SHADOW* OF A SPAWN!

LITTLE CHICKY RUNNING AROUND WITH-OUT EVEN KNOWING HOW TO USE YOUR POWERS...

hmf hmf hmf

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO OFF TO?!

BUT YOU, YA LITTLE RUNT, YOU'RE JUST A *BENCH WARMER*, IF THAT!

*AL SIMMONS* IS THE REAL DEAL, IF EVER THERE WAS ONE.

ONLY PICKING-UP ON PSYCHO-PLASM RESIDUE.

NO. NOT ANY-MORE.

THERE?

?!

PLEASE, OH PLEASE LET ME BE IN TIME!

DAMN IT!

...NOT GOOD.

IF HE LEAKS ANOTHER FIGHT'S WORTH...

FIFTY

Ching!

NRAH!

hnf
hnf
scratch
scratch
WHAT'S THIS THING MADE OF?!
PUNCHES DON'T WORK. KICKS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF OF HIM--
NOW IF ONLY THE "CHIBI-LATOR" LISTENED TO ME FOR ONCE...
...HE'D BE RIGHT HERE NEXT TO YOU JUST AS I AM.
OH, THERE YOU ARE!

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT LITTLE OL' ME?

BEE! STAY BEHIND ME!

YOU'RE SO KIND!

GNF!

!?

HMMN? DID YOU MEAN TO PROTECT ME BY THROWING YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY?

NNNG!

TAKING ON A CHALLENGE BY JUMPING INTO A *POINTLESS* FIGHT SERVES NO PURPOSE, UNDERSTAND?

PHH. WHO ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO GET HURT!

*BEE!* **GET OUT OF HERE** *BEFORE YOU GET HURT!*

ジャコン!!

YOU DON'T REALLY THINK YOUR *KARATE* IS OF MUCH USE AGAINST AN OPPONENT LIKE THAT, DO YOU?

THE BEHEMOTH YOU'RE NOW BATTLING IS DERIVED FROM THE FORCE OF A TITAN INFUSED WITH PSYCHOPLASM.

YOU STILL DO. THE PSYCHOPLASM IS MIMICKING WHAT YOU CAN REMEMBER FROM YOUR DAYS AS A HUMAN.

IT DOESN'T FEEL PAIN.

IT'S A DESTRUCTIVE ABOMINATION THAT MOVES ON *PURE INSTINCT*, AND THAT ALONE.

THAT... THING. IT'S A MANMADE CLONE CULTURED WITH THE POWER OF PSYCHOPLASM.

*TOTAL AND COMPLETE ANNIHILATION!*

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP SOMETHING SUCH AS THIS.

SO HOW DO I GO ABOUT DOING THAT?!

OHHH, RIGHT.

COULD BE A PROBLEM.

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLOIT YOUR OWN POWERS.

BEE! LOOK OUT!

HMN?

WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO?

GUOOAH!

crunch!

crunch!

crunch!

WHAT'D YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY DOING THAT?!

WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT?

IDIOT...

NF!

FOOL! WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING?!

NOTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU, NOW.

...LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DONE FOR SURE, THIS TIME.

WELL, WELL...

HUNH!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT HIMSELF INTO THIS MESS.

THIS ISN'T MY FAULT, YOU KNOW.

Growr

.....

NOW I'M IN A BAD MOOD.

I'll kill

I AL-READY SAID, I'M *NOT* IN THE--

REALLY WANT TO PUSH MY BUTTONS, DON'T YOU?

-MOOD!

VOOSH!

MANMADE FREAK!

YOU DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES--

GYAAA!!

IDIOTS, ONE AND ALL!

HNGRRRR

DOESN'T EVEN CARE ABOUT HIS OWN WELL BEING--

THIS ONE.

THAT ONE.

IT'S DAMN DEPRESSING IS WHAT IT IS!

Thud!

-SIGH-

click
click

click
click

URK...

UNH--

??

WHAT--
ME...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT--

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

MISTRESS BEE?

SO WHAT, PRAY TELL *WERE* YOUR INTEN-TIONS--

PUTTING YOUR NOSE INTO THE BUSINESS OF THE HELL SPAWN...

*...MALEBOLGIA'S UNDERLINGS--*

I HAD NO IN-TENTIONS, OF COURSE!

SAVE YOUR EX-CUSES...

HE'S GOT A SPECIAL *POWER* INSIDE THAT ONLY NEEDS TO BE--

*NEBULOS*, I DON'T THINK THIS ONE'S JUST A *SHADOW OF SPAWN.*

...FOR YOUR *BIG BROTHER.* HE'S GOT A MUCH BIGGER HEART FOR SUCH THINGS.

...AREN'T YOU, NEBULOS?

EVER THE JOKES-TER...

...BUT WHAT AWAITED ME INSIDE...

I RETURNED TO THE CHURCH HIDEOUT, STILL UNSURE OF WHAT EXACTLY TRANS-PIRED...

A DEMON WHOSE CEASE-LESS COM-PLAINTS RAN THROUGH THE NIGHT AND MUCH OF THE NEXT DAY. A DEMON WITHOUT AN OFF SWITCH.

...WAS THE CREATURE I LOATHE TO CALL MY "COMPANION" IN THIS NEW EXISTENCE OF MINE. THIS TWISTED, MISSHAPEN, ANGRY, FOUL-MOUTHED DEMON.

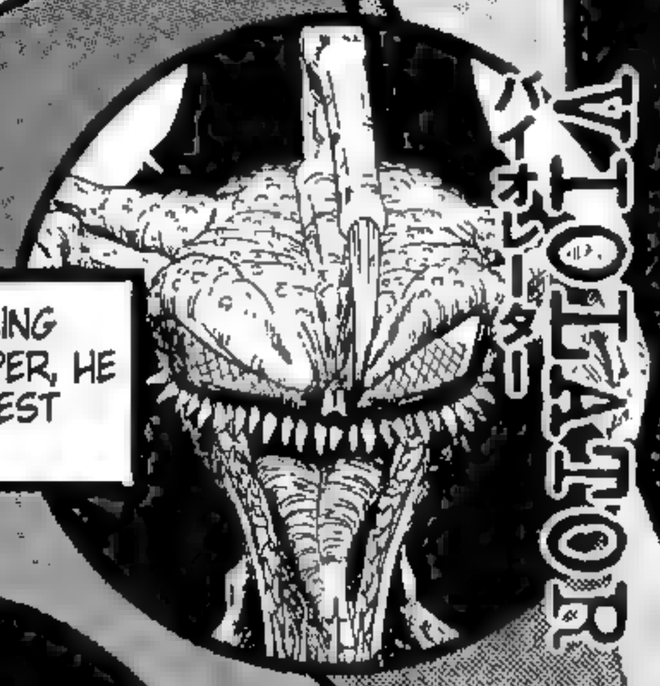
*TO BE CONTINUED...*

JUZO TOKORO
PRESENTS
SHADOWS OF
SPAWN
2

# SHADOWS OF SPAWN CHARACTERS

ZOMBIE SPAWN
ゾンビ・スポーン

CHEVEYO... MYSTERIOUS WARRIOR.



VIOLATOR
バイオレーター

MALEBOLGIA'S UNDERLING AND WOULD-BE USURPER, HE NOW GUIDES THE NEWEST SPAWN, KEN.

MARIKO KUROSAWA
マリコ

KEN'S LITTLE SISTER, SHE'S GROWN-UP AND AT THE CUSP OF STARDOM AS THE LATEST HOLLYWOOD ACTION STAR.

MALEBOLGIA
メルボリジャ

RULER OF THE UNDERWORLD, MALEBOLGIA CONTROLS EVENTS THAT MAY SEAL THE FATES OF THE WORLD.

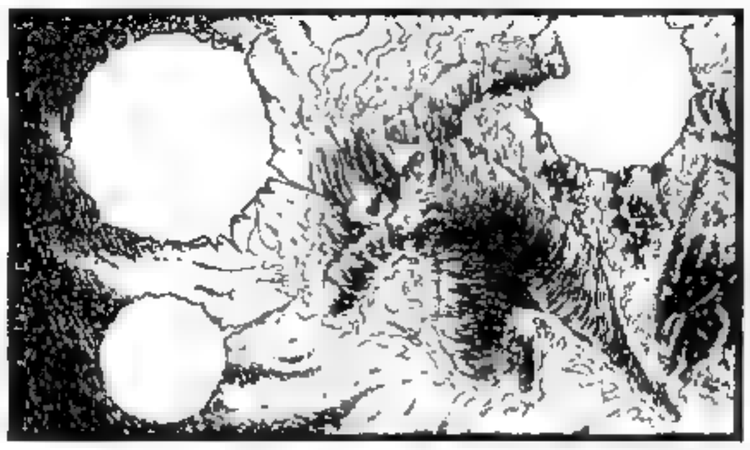
SPAWN
スポーン/KK

KEN KUROSAWA ("KK") WILLINGLY BECAME A SPAWN IN ORDER TO RETURN TO LIFE AND PROTECT HIS SISTER. WHAT HE DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS THE DEVIL'S FORKED TONGUE...

## THE STORY SO FAR:

ONCE A STREET THUG FOR HIRE, ***KEN KUROSAWA ("KK")*** IS ASSASSINATED IN A CAR BOMB HIT. HAVING PROMISED HIS SISTER, ***MARIKO***, THAT HE WOULD ALWAYS PROTECT HER, HE MADE A PACT WITH THE DEVIL KNOWN AS ***MALEBOLGIA*** TO BECOME HIS MINION... SELLING HIS SOUL... IN EXCHANGE FOR THE CHANCE TO FULFILL THIS PROMISE.

***MALEBOLGIA*** KEPT HIS END OF THE BARGAIN, BUT RETURNED KEN TO LIFE ***SEVEN YEARS*** AFTER HIS DEATH! HIS SISTER NOW GROWN-UP, KEN FINDS HIMSELF EMBROILED IN A WAR BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH ITSELF. WITH THE ***VIOLATOR*** AND ***BEE*** AS HIS GUIDES, HE'S LEFT WITH FAR MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS. WHAT HE DOES QUICKLY DISCOVER IS THAT MARIKO IS IN FAR GREATER DANGER NOW THAN SHE EVER WAS BEFORE...



# EPISODE.0 ENVOY －使者－

THIS RUINED HOUSE OF GOD HAS AN INTERESTING TALE TO TELL THAT SPANS MANY GENERA-TIONS. ITS WALLS WHIS-PER WITH ECHOES OF THE PAST...

THE HUMAN SOUL... DOES IT PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, OR THAT HE EVEN GIVES A SNOT ABOUT US? WHATEVER THE ANSWER, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

THIS PLACE OF WORSHIP IS NOW NOTHING MORE THAN A BUILDING THAT HOLDS THE CORPSES OF THOSE WHO ONCE BELIEVED. THEY'VE GOT NOTHING NEW TO TELL ME. BEEN THERE...

...DONE THAT. THE UNEARTHLY SILENCE WAS SUPPOSED TO CRADLE ME IN ITS IMMATERIAL EMBRACE. LEND ME SHELTER FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS IT ONCE DID FOR THOSE BEFORE

WISH-FUL THINK-ING

PEOPLE?

NO. JUST MY IMAGIN-ATION.

SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK

SQUEAK?

OVER THERE! THE ROOF'S CAVED IN AND LETTING IN THE MOON-LIGHT!

ISN'T IT ROMAN-TIC?

STILL... ISN'T THIS WHERE THEY PUT THEIR DEAD GUYS? THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.

ARE YOU SCARED?

HA! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING 'BOUT? ME... ...SCARED?

コッ カッ

コッ カッ

SURE, SURE. BUT DRIFT OR NO DRIFT, IT SMELLS DOWN HERE.

YOU GET MY DRIFT?

IT'S IN COLD PLACES LIKE THIS I CAN REALLY FEEL THE HEAT BUILDING-UP INSIDE...

ガリ チャ

crunch!

pop!

HAAA! HA! I'M JUST KIDDING. IT WAS JUST SOME CRUSTY RAT PEBBLES.

OH MY GOD!!!

EEW! YOU JUST CRUSHED WHAT'S LEFT OF SOME-ONE'S BLADDER...

I... STEPPED ON... SOME-THING...

SO YOU *ARE* SCARED!

H-HEY, BABE. LET'S GO GET THAT HOTEL, AFTER ALL. YOU KNOW THE DOORMAN, RIGHT?

klak

EEP!

Shing!

LEAVE THIS PLACE, NOW!

EEEEEK!

LEAVE!

THIS IS NOT A PLACE FOR JUNKIES AND HOOKERS.

REMOVE YOURSELVES FROM THIS PLACE, NOW!

GHOOOST!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? LEGS FROZEN IN FEAR?

RUN! RUN! RUN!

Uwaaa!

MY PATIENCE GROWS VERY, VERY SHORT.

SOME-THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...

click

...YOU'LL BECOME A PERMANENT FIXTURE IN THESE TOMBS.

YOU'VE TEN SECONDS. IF YOUR LEGS STILL RE-FUSE TO MOVE...

?

YES?

AND THAT'S YOUR FINAL OFFER?

shoom!

hi!

LANCE!

WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT AND SHOW ME YOUR REAL FACE, EH--

ALL JOKING SIDE...

MR. HELL-SPAWN OF LOS ANGELES!

WHO... ARE... YOU?

?

?

LET'S NOT WASTE TIME ON SILLY GREETINGS. WE'LL BE PARTING WAYS FAR TOO SOON, AFTER ALL.

kchak!

JUST TAKING A LOOOONG TRIP ACROSS THE GREAT BEYOND. THAT'S ALL.

DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE.

瞬間(しゅんかん)

"SHYUNKAN"

"TENSHI NO LANCE NO BOHATSU"

天使(てんし)の武器(ブキ)の暴発(ぼうはつ)

UNH?!

HNGH!

THERE... THERE WAS ANOTHER?

WHAT?!

HEH, HEH, HEH. DON'T BE DOING SOMETHING BAD TO MY VERY IMPOR-TANT PARTNER, THERE.

MY PARTNER IS...

LET'S HAVE THOSE RIB-BONS BE-HAVE THEM-SELVES!

WHOA THERE!

A BIT DELICATE. BUT I'M SURE YOU'RE GOING TO BE **DELICIOUS, ANGEL GIRL!**

A-ANGEL?!

YOU! *VIOLATOR?!*

YOU LOOK LIKE HIM...

...IF A BIT *SMALLER* THAN I REMEM-BER...

I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET THE CHANCE TO EAT YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEART OUT!

FANCY MEETING YOU IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, *MIKAELA!*

WHO'S THE PRETTY LADY?

HEY.

THERE WERE EXTENU-ATING CIR-CUMSTAN-CES.

*DON'T SAY THAT!*

...FROM SUCH A TENDER BOSOM!

TEE-HEE-HEE

'SPECIALLY ONE THAT COMES...

QUESTIONS *AFTER* I EAT! OOOOOH! I'VE ALWAYS WAN-TED TO DEVOUR AN ANGEL'S HEART.

AGHAA!

MEANS THEY'LL LISTEN TO ME OVER YOU.

THESE CHAINS SIDE WITH THE MORAL RIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!?!

WHAT--?!

WE'RE NATURAL BORN ENEMIES!

IDIOT! WHAT'S A SPAWN GOING TO DO WITH A SAVED ANGEL?

BUT YOU JUST COMMITTED A BIG NO-NO.

AREN'T WE A TENDER-FOOT?

EATING SOMEONE'S HEART WHILE THEY'RE STILL ALIVE ISN'T MY STYLE. THAT'S ALL.

NATURAL BORN EN-EMIES OR NOT, I DON'T MUCH CARE.

..."SAVED" ME.

YOU, A SPAWN...

...AND THREW ITS TATTERED REMAINS BACK IN MY FACE!

YOU TOOK MY *PRIDE*...

PRIDE?

*FOR THAT, I WILL NOT FORGIVE.*

WHERE'S THE PRIDE IN THAT?

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. AND EVEN IF I DID, I'M UNARMED.

FINE.

shing!

HA!

TAKE THIS!

FREELANCE SPAWN HUNTER!

MY NAME IS MIKAELA!

...I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE ASS-KICKING OF *ANY* LIFE-TIME!

BEFORE I BANISH YOU TO THE VOID...

SO...

*...ANY MORE COM-PLAINTS?!*

YOU'RE ONE EGO-TISTICAL "ANGEL."

HNH!

YOU STILL WHINING?

THE RIFF-RAFF THEY TAKE-IN THESE DAYS...

WHAT?!

HA! YOU WON'T GET A GOOD FIGHT OUT OF HIM THAT WAY! HE'S A DOOF WITH THE SWORD!

YOU HEAR ME BITCH-ING?

BARE HANDS...

YOU WANT A FIGHT TO BE PROUD OF? HE'S A KARATE-MAN. BARE HANDS ARE YOUR WEAPONS!

THIS AIN'T THE MIDDLE AGES, MIKAELA. SWORDS AND LANCES WENT THE WAY OF THE DO-DO.

DANCING WITH AN ANGEL ON HER TURF!

*WHOA-HO!* LOOKEE AT THE LITTLE MAN GO!

"KARATE."

ALAS, I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THIS FIGHTING ART.

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO LEARN THIS "KARATE" FOR OUR NEXT MEETING... IF I WANT A *REAL* FIGHT!

STUPID BOY. TRIES TO BE ALL FANCY AND SHOW-OFF. HAS TO BE THE SHORTEST FIGHT IN RECENT SPAWN-ANGEL HISTORY... -SIGH-

THERE'S ALWAYS--

*HEY!*

AND KEEP THAT NECK WELL WASHED FOR WHEN I CUT YOUR HEAD FROM YOUR BODY!

WAIT FOR ME!

THAT WAS DIFFERENT.

HOW LONG YOU PLANNING TO KEEP ME HOGTIED?

HEY!

I'M A TROPHY TO ASCEND AN ANGEL'S RANK.

THAT COMES AS NO SURPRISE.

AFTER ALL, I *AM* A CREATION OF HELL...

WHAT *DID* SURPRISE ME WAS HER TENACITY.

MY INTENTIONS WERE NOT TO SAVE AN ANGEL.

BUT THIS BODY... IT WANTED TO FIGHT ITS "NATURAL ENEMY."

I SACRIFICED MY ONLY SOUL IN A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.

GAVE IT WILLINGLY TO THE SOULLESS TO RETURN TO LIFE.

WHAT I GOT IN RETURN WAS *NOT* LIFE.

ZZZZ

MY FATE IS TO DO BATTLE.

THAT'S ALL.

HAVING SAID THAT...

...SEEMS I'M NOW RELIANT ON THE MOST GODFORSAKEN CREATURE THIS SIDE OF DEATH.

THAT TROUBLE-SOME WOMAN?

DO YOU EVEN REALIZE WHAT KIND OF AN OPPONENT YOU JUST MADE IN THAT GIRL?

WHEN SHE BECAME "FREELANCE" IS A MYSTERY EVEN TO ME... BUT OH, SHE MUST BE QUITE TASTY--

LISTEN! SHE'S ONE OF THE HEAVIER HITTERS AMONGST THE ANGELS, AND YOU'RE HER NEW MARK.

...YOU'RE AFRAID OF LITTLE ANGELS, TOO.

SO...

ANOTHER FEW SECONDS, YOU'D HAVE BEEN SINGING WITH THEM HARPIES.

LISTEN, SHE'S *TOYING* WITH YOU! *GET REAL!*

BUT BEFORE THAT--

...OF HELL'S VERSION OF FEAR!

LET ME GIVE YOU A SMALL TASTE...

Hngrph!

Y-- YOU?!

!!

NATNICK!

YOU USED TO CALL ME A LITTLE DWEEB?

EH, VIOLATOR?!

AIN'T THIS IRONIC?!

WHO'S THE LITTLE DWEEB, NOW?!

I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

...WHERE THIS LITTLE FREAK IS AT, THERE'S GOTTA BE--

D-DON'T GET COCKY, KID...

OLD PLAY-GROUND BUDDY?

WHAT IS THAT THING?

WHAT'S RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT!

SO YOU WERE LURKING ABOUT, AFTER ALL!

SCOURGE!

AT THIS LEVEL, HE'S GOT NO CHANCE...

NOT GOOD...

...JUST ONE BLOW EVEN INCAPACITATED THE COSTUME...

ONE BLOW...

HIM!

YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY 'BOUT--

KID...

RUN AWAY, KID! SAVE YOUR-SELF!

SCOURGE! SERIOUSLY! THE KID...

...JUST...

...LET HIM GO...

UNGRRR

HE'S LITERALLY BEING CRUSHED OUT OF EXISTENCE!

OPEN THOSE EYES AND MOVE, OR YOU'RE DEAD!

WAKE-UP, BOY! WAKE-UP AND RUN!

ting!

Shunk!

!?

UH--

OH!

YOU DARE STEAL MY VICTORY?!

AFTER ALL...

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!

...HE'S MY PRIZE!

LAST ENCOUNTER. EVEN ABOUT THINGS NOT SAID.

I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID DURING OUR

MIKAELA?

M--

LIKE WHY AND HOW WE FIGHT. MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, YOU GOT ME THINKING.

AND JUST NOW...

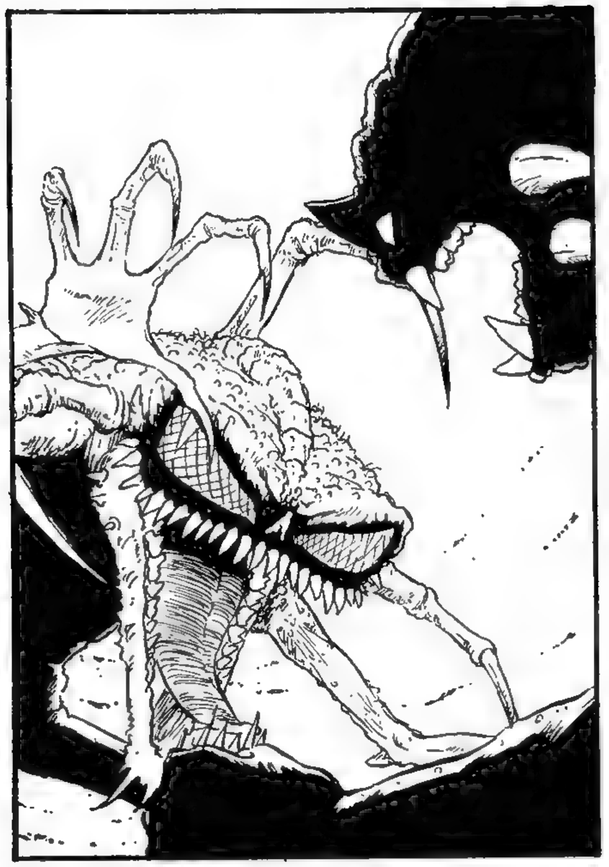
...LADY, YOU'VE NEVER LOOKED MORE ANGELIC.

WHATEVER IT WAS I SAID OR DID, I'M GLAD.

DON'T GET SENTI-MENTAL ON ME.

GET UP AND LET'S FINISH THIS!

HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO SIT ON YOUR DUFF AND YAP?



THE BROTHERS FROM HELL DIDN'T LAST LONG ONCE WE TOOK TO THEM AS OUR OWN LITTLE TAG-TEAM OUTFIT...

...NOT LONG AT ALL.

ONCE THEY WERE SENT BACK TO WHEREVER IT WAS THEY CRAWLED OUT FROM, THE ANGEL-LADY MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO ME THAT OUR NEXT MEETING WOULDN'T BE ON SUCH AMICABLE TERMS.

SHE SOUNDED LIKE SHE MEANT EVERY WORD, TOO.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, A PART OF ME DOESN'T WANT THAT "NEXT TIME."

AND YET...

...I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T SAY ANOTHER PART OF ME WOULDN'T EXACTLY MIND IT.

IN THE MEAN-TIME, I WRAP MYSELF IN THE DARKNESS AND SILENCE OF THIS PLACE OF DEATH...

THAT BRIDGE WILL BURN WHEN WE GET TO IT.

次の闘いが始まるまでの間……

...UNTIL THE NEXT BATTLE BEGINS...

# EPISODE.6 RECOLLECTION ―追憶―

THANKS, CHRIS. WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT WORK. JUST GET SETTLED IN. AFTER ALL, YOU'VE GOT A BRILLIANT MANAGER!

HERE'S TODAY'S LOAD OF FANMAIL AND FLOWERS.

YOU GETTING USED TO ALL THIS, YET?

PARTY?

I SHUDDER TO THINK! TOMORROW'S PARTY SHOULD BE A FUN LITTLE DIVERSION.

HOW COULD I FORGET THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY OF ALL?

OH, BOY. AND ALL THIS TIME, YOU NEVER REALLY STRUCK ME AS THE "DIVA" TYPE...

YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU'RE SO FAMOUS NOW THAT YOU CAN FORGET YOUR OWN BIRTHDAY?!

AHM--

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS--

THAT'S RIGHT...

I'D LIKE THAT.

LET'S DO THIS. BEFORE WE DO THE P.R. ZOO PARTY, LET'S SWING BY AND VISIT KEN, OKAY?

ALSO THE ANNI-VERSARY OF MY BROTHER'S DEATH.

AS PER YOUR PEOPLE'S CUSTOMS, RIGHT? WHAT REMAINS OF YOUR BONES AND ASHES, RIGHT HERE, UNDER THIS HERE ROCK!

PRETTY SMART, REALLY... NICE AND COMPACT!

SO THIS IS MY--

KUROSAWA

黒澤家之墓

KEN KUROSAWA

klak

SO I REALLY AM DEAD.

BONES. ASHES.

...HOW IS IT THAT THIS COSTUME IS FILLED-OUT AS IF THERE WAS ONE?

BUT...

IF THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF MY BODY...

*LIKE YOU DIDN'T KNOW!*

YOUR PSYCHOPLASM'S GONE AHEAD AND MADE YOU UP A NEW BODY...

...A "NEW YOU," IF YOU WANT TO BE A 'TARD ABOUT IT.

WHAT? YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW HOW ALL THAT WORKS?

...UNDER THIS COWL?

YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT I'VE EVEN GOT A NEW FACE...

*!*

A NEW BODY?

THE PSYCHOPLASM WILL ULTIMATELY REFLECT WHATEVER THOUGHTS YOU'VE HAD OF YOUR FACE. IT'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT IT TO.

HMMN. IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING, YES. WHATEVER THE HECK FACE YOU MADE, ANYWAY.

schlip

TELL ME! HOW DO I GET THIS MASK OFF?

MY FACE!

MY...

THE COSTUME IS ALSO FABRICATED FROM PSYCHO-PLASM. THEREFORE, IT, TOO, OBEYS YOUR THOUGHTS.

!

AT LEAST WITH A FACE, I CAN LOOK MARIKO EYE-TO-EYE AGAIN.

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M NOT SOME KIND OF MASKED FREAK!

...JUST MEET WITH HER...

SO LONG AS I CAN...

EVEN IF IT'S NOT AS HER BROTHER, IT WON'T MATTER.

...AS A MAN.

BEFORE I DIED?

NO...

YOU'RE A BRUTHA! EXACTLY WHAT *WAS* YOUR LAST RECOLLECTION OF YOUR FACE BEFORE YOU TOOK YOUR DIRT NAP?

*WHOA, BABY! NOW THAT'S A COOL MUG YOU'VE GOT!*

GO USE THAT PUDDLE!

DUMB-ASS? WHERE DO YOU THINK I'D KEEP SOMETHING LIKE THAT ON ME?

*GIVE ME A MIRROR, VIOLATOR!*

GIVE ME A MIRROR.

UMM-HM! THAT'S A MACHO LOOK. JUST LIKE *AL SIM-MONS!*

*Noooooo!*

JUNE 1, 12
NO 30 1986

I TOLD YA...

KEN...

SO JUST REST-- UP UNTIL THEN.

YES. I PROM-ISE.

THEN IT'S A PROMISE!

NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL BE HOME TONIGHT.

...DIDN'T I PROMISE YOU I'D BE BACK FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?

最後の言葉だった

それが兄さんの

YOU'RE HOME EARLY!

KEN!

knock knock

THANK YOU, MRS. CONNIE!

AH!

HELLOOO! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARIKO!

I LOVE YOUR CAKES, MRS. CONNIE!

THANK YOU!

A BIRTHDAY CAKE!

A LITTLE SOMETHING YOUR BROTHER ASKED ME TO WHIP-UP!

MICHAEL?

MICHAEL IS COMING TO VISIT.

I'M SORRY, DEAR. BUT NOT TONIGHT.

??? AREN'T YOU GOING TO STAY?

WELL, PLEASE GIVE KEN MY BEST!

WOW. THAT'S BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.

10 YEARS?

HE'S MY SON, MARIKO. I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN SOME 10 YEARS...

隣のコニーおばあちゃん！

MRS. CONNIE...

I UNDER-STAND! I'M VERY HAPPY FOR YOU, MRS. CONNIE!

I'M SO SORRY, MARIKO. BUT JUST THIS ONE NIGHT...

I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING THESE DAYS?

...SHE ALWAYS KEPT AN EYE ON US...

コッ

コッ

THAT NIGHT...

...EVEN SHE...

Mariko

フッ

フッ

MY BIRTHDAY...

IT'LL END SOON, KEN.

-> SNIFF <-

-> SNIFF <-

-> SNIFF <-

...IT'LL END SOON.

NG...

-> SOB <-

MARIKO? WHO'S THAT CRYING? IS IT YOU, DEAR?

HE PROM-ISED ME--

HE'S NOT HERE.

M-MRS...

MARIKO? WHERE'S KEN?

THERE, THERE. KEN SAID HE'D BE HERE. HE WILL BE. HE TOLD ME AS MUCH.

SHHH.

Waaaa!

AND HE'S NOT HOME!

MY BIRTHDAY WILL BE OVER BY THEN!

HE PROMISED...

THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

READY? WATCH THIS.

?

...NOT UNTIL KEN GETS HERE, ANYWAY!

NOPE! YOUR BIRTH-DAY WON'T BE OVER...

NOW WE CAN WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES!

SEE?

RIGHT?

MRS. CONNIE...

HMN. WELL...

WHAT ABOUT YOUR SON?

MRS. CONNIE?

SUCH A SWEET LITTLE GIRL.

IT SAID HE COULDN'T MAKE IT TONIGHT, AFTER ALL.

I JUST RECEIVED A COURIER-DELIVERED TELEGRAM FROM HIM.

BUT HE'S PROMISED TO VISIT. SOME DAY.

ASKED ME TO SIT TIGHT UNTIL THEN.

I GUESS HIS COMPANY SENT HIM OFF TO SOME FOREIGN COUN-TRY AGAIN, SO HE POSTPONED...

...AGAIN.

.....

WHY DON'T YOU AND KEN JOIN ME? THE THREE OF US WILL HAVE A FEAST!

THAT'S RIGHT! I'VE GOT QUITE THE SPREAD COOKED-UP EXPECTING HIM.

...DAY.

SOME...

OKAY!

THEN LET'S HEAD-ON UP TO MY ROOM, OKAY?

GRAB SOME CANDLES AND MATCHES.

I WAS ABLE TO PUSH ASIDE THE FRAIL-TIES OF AGE FOR THIS ONE MEAL.

USED EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH.

WOW! YOU MADE ALL THIS?

UH-HUH.

IF HE COULD'VE JUST SAID SOME-THING SOONER.

JUST THAT CHICKEN TOOK SOME FIVE HOURS TO BAKE.

MRS. CONNIE...

THAT YOU COULD BE MADE SO HAPPY BY ALL THIS MAKES ME HAPPY AS WELL. THAT'S ALL.

IT'S NOTH-ING.

SO I CAN STAY UP WITH YOU!

IT'S OKAY! I SLEPT ALL DAY LONG,

...I'LL WAKE YOU UP WHEN KEN GETS BACK.

BUT IT'S LATE AND NO DOUBT YOUR BED-TIME...

IT WAS THE *LAPD.*

THERE WAS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR THE NEXT MORNING.

WE WAITED. BUT HE NEVER RETURNED.

...EVERY-ONE RE-MEMBERS HOW GOOD YOU WERE TO ME...

...DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

KEN...

AND EVERY-ONE...

I'M HAPPY, NOW.

...WITH MARIKO BECOMING A STAR, LIVING IN THE SPOT-LIGHT...

IN SEVEN YEARS...

NOTHING'S CHANGED.

...IT'S EXACTLY AS I REMEMBER IT.

...THE APARTMENT WE LIVED IN...

...WHILE I BECAME WELL-DONE HAMBURGER FACE...

cough

cough

cough

cough

wheeze

wheeze

WHO IS IT?

SO YOU STILL LIVE HERE, AFTER ALL.

EH?

MRS. CONNIE.

!

IS THAT YOU, *ANGEL OF DEATH?*

?!

I'VE BEEN WAITING.

YOU'VE FINALLY COME FOR ME, HAVEN'T YOU?

...AND EVEN MY SON IS OFF IN SOME FOREIGN COUNTRY I'VE NOT HEARD OF.

THERE'S NO MORE MONEY TO PAY THE HOSPITAL BILLS...

THIS OLD BODY'S BEEN RIDDLED WITH CHRONIC AIL-MENTS... EVEN MY EYES HAVE DECIDED TO QUIT ON ME.

I'VE GROWN TIRED OF WAITING.

17 YEARS. I'VE WAITED FOR 17 YEARS.

HEAVEN OR HELL, I DON'T MUCH CARE.

SO PLEASE, TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE.

...HEAVEN IS THE ONLY PLACE FOR YOU.

MRS. CONNIE...

...IF YOU GO...

...ONE OF HELL'S CHILDREN.

I'M...

NOW HURRY-UP AND LET'S BE OFF.

IT MUST BE A BETTER LIFE THAN THIS, RIGHT?

I DON'T MIND.

IT'S EASIER THIS WAY.

IT MUST'VE BEEN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO...

...THE MORNING NEVER CAME.

YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR EYES--

...YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LETTER BY THE DOOR?

THEN...

THERE WAS A LETTER?

A LETTER?

MICHAEL?

MI--

NO. "MICHAEL."

Michael Smith

3915 7th Ave. Pa

Los Angeles

IT'S FROM A "MICK--"

THE SENDER--

I BEG OF YOU, HAVE THE MERCY TO READ ME WHAT'S IN THAT LETTER--

PLEASE, ANGEL OF DEATH! GRANT ME THIS ONE LAST WISH BEFORE TAKING ME TO HELL!

THIS IS THE ONE OF WHOM YOU WERE SPEAKING?

MY SON...

...HE WROTE ME A LETTER?

HNGK!

THIS IS TOO CRUEL, EVEN FOR YOU, ANGEL! P-PLEASE... LET ME...

CONNIE!

gasp

gasp

Urgh!

hng!

!!

I BEG OF YOU...

...READ IT TO ME...

...LET ME HEAR WHAT MY SON HAD TO SAY!

I WANTED TO STEER CLEAR OF THIS PLACE, BUT DIDN'T LISTEN TO MY OWN GOOD SENSE. NOW LOOK AT THIS CRAZY SITUATION--

HNNN--

READY?! LISTEN CAREFULLY.

HERE IT IS!

I WILL!

HOLD-ON, MRS. CONNIE!

MRS. CONNIE! HE'S COMING HOME--

TODAY!

HE'S COMING HOME TODAY!

*My dear mam*
*I'm sorry for th*
*will be come ba*
*So, before the*
*see you again*

!

rip!

YOUR SON IS COMING HOME TODAY!
DID YOU HEAR ME?!
huff
ngh!
...AND ALL I'LL HAVE TO GREET HIM WITH IS MY DEATH'S FACE.
HOW IRONIC.
MY SON IS RETURNING...
COMING HOME...
DON'T LOSE FAITH, NOW!
BUT EVEN IF I'M GONE, I CAN STILL...
huff
huff
...STILL GREET HIM WITH A SMILE...

HAVE TO MAKE SURE I'M SMILING...

STAY ALIVE AND GREET YOUR SON YOUR-SELF!

LIVE!

⇒ haaa ⇐

MRS. CONNIE!!

MRS. CONNIE...

C--

YOUR SON... ...AND HIS *FAMILY!*

MRS. CONNIE! THEY'RE HERE!

REMEMBER TO GREET GRANDMA--

WELL, HERE WE ARE!

FRED, MARIA, LET'S GO.

!?!

*...IS NOT YOUR TIME TO DIE!!*

*NOW...*

*OPEN YOUR EYES!*

*COME BACK!*

?!

WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?

WHAT IS THIS?!

WH--

!

MR. DEATH ANGEL?

M-MRS... CONNIE?

I'M--

I--

ANGEL OF DEATH?

WAIT, MR. ANGEL!

AND WHAT KIND OF FACE IS THAT?

I MADE EXCUSES UNTIL IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE I COULDN'T BEAR TO FACE MY OWN MOM.

WILL SHE EVEN REMEMBER YOUR FACE?

IT'S BEEN 17 YEARS, RIGHT, DAD?

I DON'T WANT YOU KIDS GROWING UP TO NEGLECT YOUR PARENTS LIKE I DID.

...AND LET YOUR MOTHER DECIDE FOR HERSELF...

WHY DON'T YOU COME HERE...

MOTHER...

YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT, MOM.

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT MY-SELF.

IT WAS NOTHING SHY OF A MIRACLE.

NO. NOT GOD.

THANKS TO GOD--

I'M STILL COMING TO GRIPS WITH IT.

MIRACLE?

IT WAS *HIS* WISH.

IT WAS THE *ANGEL OF DEATH.*

その日 地獄の使者は

IT WAS ON THAT DAY...

...THAT MOMENT...

思ってもみなかった 悪魔の能力を知った

...I LEARNED THE DEVIL'S TRUE POWER...

そしてその引き替えに

...AND THE ULTIMATE TRADE

背負ってく

BET-WEEN THE LIVING...

自己の孤独も……

...AND THAT OF MY OWN SOLITARY EXISTENCE...

YOU'RE TOO DAMN WEAK!

WEAK!

# EPISODE.7 ASPIRATION —志願—

LET'S GO OVER YOUR SCORECARD, SHALL WE?

YOU'RE SO PATHETICALLY WEAK IT MAKES ME WANNA PUKE!

AND *SCOURGE*... HE BEAT YOU WITH JUST ONE HAND!

YOU GOT SKEWERED BY THE PENTAGON'S PLAYTHING, *TREMOR II.*

IT TOOK ALL YOU HAD TO BEAT THE HALF-BAKED *ANUBIS.*

IF NOT FOR THE PITY OF AN *ANGEL*, OF ALL THINGS...

HE'S MY PRIZE!

*YOU DON'T GET OFF THAT EASY, BUCKO!*

AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?

WHAT'S YOUR POINT?

HEY! DON'T MAKE NO DIFF IF YOU *THINK* YOU ACCEPTED OR NOT.

I DON'T REMEMBER ACCEPTING THAT ROLE.

REMEMBER, YOU'RE MY BODYGUARD, TOO!

YOU'VE FINALLY RESIGNED YOURSELF TO BECOMING *MALEBOLGIA'S GOOD LITTLE LAPDOG?*

OR MAYBE--

YOU KNOW I'LL NEVER SERVE HIM.

CUT THE CRAP.

REMEMBER THAT.

YOU MUST BE FAR MORE POWERFUL IF YOU HOPE TO LAST PAST ROUND ONE AGAINST HIM.

THEN GET STRONGER!

...IF YOU FALL BACK INTO HIS CLUTCHES, IT WILL BE THE MOST MISERABLE EXISTENCE OF ALL!

HELL'S TYRANT...

YOUR VALIANT EFFORTS AN INSURMOUNTABLE DEFEAT.

YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE HIS ETERNAL GAZE.

Hmm
Heh
Heh
Heh
Heh

I CAN HEAR THEM!

ANOTHER SUCKLING HAS BEGUN THEIR JOURNEY...

GO FIND THE ONE WHO WAS HELLSPAWN BEFORE YOU AND GROW BIG AND STRONG.

GO AND LEARN THIS ONE THING.

THAT IN THE END...

LET THE BABIES GET OUT AND PLAY!

THEIR SPIRIT IS IMPORTANT, FOR NOW.

DO WHAT YOU MUST. DEFY ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!

全(すべ)ては我(わ)が掌(たなごころ)の内(うち)という事(こと)を……

...EVERYTHING...

...IS IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...

BEVERLY

HILLS--

JUST A FLASH OF INSPIRATION. AN IDEA THAT FITS THE BILL NICELY.

WHAT FOR?

HERE. HUNT DOWN THIS ADDRESS.

YOUR PENMAN-SHIP IS TERRIBLE. I CAN BARELY READ THIS.

PHHT.

IF YOU WANT TO BECOME MORE POWERFUL, HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SISTER?

YOUR BEING WEAK AS A *PUSSY*... ...CAT... ISN'T JUST MY PROBLEM.

OH, NO.

FOR ALL THE TOUGH-GUY TALK, KEEP THIS IN MIND.

SMART-ASS LITTLE BRAT...

CAN YOU HONESTLY SAY YOU COULD DO SO ON YOUR OWN, KNOWING WHAT KIND OF ENEMIES YOU NOW FACE?

THE ONE WHO LIVES AT THAT ADDRESS CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO PROTECT MARIKO. LEARN FROM THEM.

I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?

GRRR...

HNG-

ONE WHO'S BEEN A THORN IN MALEBOLGIA'S SIDE FOR 400... NO. GOING ON 500 YEARS!

THE ONE YOU'LL MEET IS ANOTHER HELLSPAWN.

TWO OR THREE YEARS. THAT'S USUALLY WHEN THEY BREAK. BUT NOT THIS ONE. 500 YEARS AND COUNTING.

YEP. HE'S A STUBBORN LITTLE BUGGER.

500 YEARS?!

FIVE--

I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.

...WOULD PROBABLY KNOW THE MEANS WITH WHICH TO TAKE DOWN *MALEBOLGIA!*

SOMEONE LIKE THAT...

.....

CHANCES ARE GOOD HE'S A VERITABLE LIBRARY OF SKILLS AND INFORMATION.

BUT HE'S DEFINITELY NOT YOUR EVERYDAY SPAWN.

tee-hee-hee SO SIMPLE MINDED AND EASY TO MANIPULATE.

BEE?

I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE HOME.

YOU SENT HIM TO *THE PLACE* THAT'S LIKE COMMITTING *SUICIDE*, RIGHT?

IS IT ALL RIGHT TO NOT TAIL HIM?

?

STOP DREDGING-UP THE PISS-ASS PAST.

THERE WERE "INCIDENTS" OVER THE LAST 500 YEARS...

OH, WAIT! THAT'S RIIIIGHT!

...IT WOULD'VE BEEN PRUDENT TO AT LEAST TELL THE KID TO "*EXERCISE ALL DUE CAUTION*," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

DON'T YOU THINK...

DID MALEBOLGIA *REALLY* CUT YOUR ARMS OFF?

HNPH.

DIDN'T I?

EH?

...DON'T YOU THINK?

BUT IF HE DECIDES TO CHARGE IN LIKE HE USUALLY DOES, HE'S DEAD ON ARRIVAL. IT'D BE SAD...

DOESN'T CONCERN ME ONE WAY OR THE NEXT.

GAME OVER, MAN.

IF HE DIES, WE'RE DONE.

LET THE CARDS FALL AS THEY MAY.

IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

ACCORDING TO THE ADDRESS...

...IT SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...

CAN'T PICTURE A HELL-SPAWN LIVING THERE--

THAT MOUNTAIN-TOP MANSION IS WHERE I'M GOING.

?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THE COSTUME!

!?

...A DIFFERENT RESPONSE.

BUT NOT *BATTLE-CLAD*...

I CAN SENSE SOME-THING.

*FEAR?* THE COS-TUME'S FEAR? BUT WHY--?

!

!?

eh-?!

Aaaaaa!

UGH...

AOOOO!

NGH!

!

DON'T MOVE.

SO GET READY TO JOIN THE DECOMPOSED.

I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, THIS GUN HAS THE ABILITY TO REND PSYCHO-PLASM AS WELL AS THE FLESH.

*I MAY EVEN LEAVE YOU WITH A FACE AS HANDSOME AS THIS!*

BACK TO HELL, BOY.

SO THIS IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR RAISING ARMS AGAINST MALEBOLGIA.

A... ZOMBIE!

BUT YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT SHOOTIN' AT ME, YOU ROTTED-OUT LUNATIC!

!!

I CAN EASILY HANDLE THE LOOK.

RYA!

WOO-HOO! KARATE, EH?

HYA!

OKAY, OKAY. I GET IT ALREADY! YOU'RE PROUD OF YOUR KARATE.

RAH!

STOP BITCHING AND START FIGHTING, ZOMBIE!

TRYING TO LULL ME TO SLEEP?

HOW LONG YOU PLAN ON USING THE SAME TECHNIQUE AGAINST ME?

HEY.

HAAAAA--

?!

DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE ME, BOY.

Swish!

SEI!

YOU...

YOU REALLY...

...DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT, DO YOU?

URK!

SENDING A FRESHLY BORN, UN-TRAINED HELLSPAWN TO PLAY CANNON FODDER...

MALEBOLGIA'S GROWN SICKER OVER THE YEARS IF THIS IS HIS NEW GAME.

YOU'RE THE ONE VIOLATOR SENT ME TO LOOK FOR.

!?

YOU.

...BUT NOW I'VE GOTTA KILL YOU AGAIN.

SORRY, KIDDO. I WAS GONNA LET YOU LIVE...

NO. IT'S NOT LIKE-

VIOLATOR? SO YOUR HIS UNDER-LING, THEN?

*MORE THAN ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THAT COSTUME AND THE PSYCHO-PLASM INSIDE!*

*AND THIS CHAINSAW IS JUST THE TICKET!*

*W-WAI-*

HOLD ON JUST A SECOND!

WAIT!

WHAT'S TO WAIT FOR?!

...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU, BOY?!

THEN...

JUST HEAR ME OUT, PLEASE! I'M NOT SOME HELLION HENCHMAN!

HNNN?

ASK YOU TO SHOW ME THE WAY THE SPAWNS TRULY FIGHT!

I WAS TOLD TO SEEK YOU OUT!

WHY IS THE VIOLATOR TOSSING HIS LITTLE MINIONS THIS WAY?

STOP PLAYING, SCRUB!

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING--

WILL YOU JUST STOP AND LISTEN!

ヒ°ｼｭﾝ

!

SHYUU

AREN'T WE FEISTY?

WHEW!

MY NAME IS *KEN KUROSAWA.*

...TO THIS TALE OF YOURS.

I'LL LISTEN...

VERY WELL.

JAPANESE, EH?

KUROSAWA.

I'M KNOWN AS *CHEVEYO.*

I COME FROM THE *ORAIBI.* A PLACE SETTLED LONG AGO IN THE *BLACK MESA.*

Woooooo

THERE'S NO WAY I'VE FOUND TO ESCAPE MALE-BOLGIA'S CURSE.

BEST TO JUST HANG IT UP NOW.

IT'S HOPELESS.

FUTILE?

MY 500 YEAR STREAK OF FUTILE RESISTENCE.

YES.

BUT... YOU'VE STOOD UP TO HIM FOR 500 YEARS...

FOR SOME REASON, I DON'T IMAGINE YOU AS HAVING THAT SAME LEVEL OF RESOLVE.

EVEN WHILE KNOWING IT'S ALL BUT POINT-LESS, I CON-TINUE TO FIGHT.

SAY YOU SUCCEED AND SHE EVENTUALLY SUCCUMBS TO OLD AGE.

YOU SAY YOU FIGHT FOR YOUR SISTER.

?

MALEBOLGIA'S SCHEMES, WHICH I NOW SEE VERY CLEARLY, WILL BE ALLOWED TO TAKE ROOT AND BRING HELL TO THIS WORLD.

YOU'D LOSE YOUR REASON FOR FIGHTING, AND IN DOING SO, YOU'D LOSE SIGHT OF THIS BATTLE'S KEY OBJECTIVE.

IS THAT SO?

I'VE GOT NO IN-TENTION OF LETTING MALEBOLGIA WIN.

DON'T PATRONIZE ME!

DO YOU THINK I CAN WASTE MY TIME TRAIN-ING ONE SUCH AS YOURSELF?

SEEMS YOU'RE NOT MY ONLY VISITOR THIS EVE.

BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO DEAL WITH A NEW PUPIL JUST YET.

MIGHT BE TRUE.

CRUSH!

THOOM!

CRASH!

YOU AGAIN?!

THIS ISN'T A MATTER FOR GREENIES TO GET INVOLVED WITH.

BEST NOT MOVE.

CRASH!

!

chak chak chak

chak chak

BODYBREAKER.

HEH.
SO,
BO-BO...

EPISODE:8-PRIDE--誇り--

EVEN AFTER
YOUR LAST,
BITTER LESSON,
COME BACK
FOR ANOTHER
PRUNING OF
EXTRA ARMS,
HAVE YOU?

THIS IS AN UNFAIR FIGHT IN MY FAVOR.

HRMPH. A CHAINSAW? USING SUCH DIRTY TOOLS THESE DAYS.

ALL IT MEANS IS IT'S YOUR IDIOTIC BRAWN AGAINST MY VERSATILE BRAIN.

IT'S PLENTY GOOD 'NUFF FOR YOU.

FOOL! HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU THINK I'LL FALL FOR THE SAME TRICKS?!

NOW LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T SHEAR OFF SOME OF THOSE EXTRA APPENDAGES OF YOURS!

VrOOOOm!

VrOOOOm!

VrOOOOm!

I'D MADE A FEW MODIFICATIONS SINCE OUR LAST EN-COUNTER.

GYA-HA-HA-HA!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

?!

I TRUST EVEN A SILVER CHAIN-SAW DOESN'T FARE WELL AGAINST SUCH A THING.

TRADED-UP TO A STEEL CLAW.

NEED A HAND?

CH!

STAY BACK, YOUNG'UN. YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.

?!

HNPH. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO A JACK-ASS OUTTA HELL.

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO--

YOU LOOK A LOT TASTIER THAN THIS GRIZZLY OLD MAN, TOO.

NYE-HEH-HEH. YOU'VE GOT SPUNK, RUNT. I GIVE YOU THAT.

ALL A TOUCH OF THEATER AND MISDIR-ECTION, LAD.

IS THAT A GOOD IDEA? I JUST CAN'T SEE YOU AS BEING IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION, HERE.

BEST SPLIT BEFORE YOU GET WRAPPED-UP IN SOMETHING YOU CAN'T HANDLE, BOY.

FFFT!

NOW THE MAIN ACT BEGINS!

!?!

I am!!

A PARTNER?

...SOMEONE WITH A STEADY HAND.

HEH, HEH, HEH. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A KNACK FOR THE DRAMATIC. I, TOO, MADE PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENTS...

YOU *PHLEBIACS* SEEM TO BE GREATLY OVERRATED.

HNH. BREAKER.

...THAT AN OLD CODGER LIKE THIS COULD MAKE SUCH A STINK FOR 500 YEARS...

WHETHER YOU OR THE VIOLATOR...

HNN?

OH, BUT LIL' MISS, I THINK I CAN RETURN THAT SENTIMENT AND THEN SOME! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT QUITE AS YOUNG AS YOU PRETEND TO BE, RIGHT?

WHAT DOES MATTER IS THAT I WEAR MY YOUTH WELL... AND THAT I DON'T SHARE THE SAME, SHRIVELED VISAGE OF A ZOMBIE.

WHEN I WAS BORN IS IRRELEVANT.

YOU'RE *CALEB*, FROM THE 18TH CENTURY. AM I RIGHT?

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WILL YOU DIE? OR WILL YOU REFUSE TO DIE? AND EVEN AMONG THOSE, THIS IS A FIRST-CLASS VILLAIN.

DID THE ENTRANCE TO HELL HAVE TWO LINES FOR THE SEXES?

IS THAT A HELLSPAWN, TOO? LOOKS LIKE A LADY.

GOT A MOUTH ON YOU, THAT'S FOR SURE.

?!

...SO THAT'S YOUR GAME...

I LEAVE THE OLD COOT TO YOU, BUDDY!

THAT'S FINE. BUT THE PSYCHOPLASM FROM THE YOUNG ONE IS MINE, TOO, GOT IT?

SHE'S KNOWN AS CALEB. MADE HER LIVING AS A VICIOUS PIRATE OF THE FAIRER PERSUASSION.

...A BAD THING...

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE...

YOU'RE JUST A *DAMN VAMPIRE!*

YOU WANT TO STEAL THE PSYCHO-PLASM FROM THE KID JUST TO PROLONG YOUR FALSE "YOUTH"...

*AM I WRONG?!*

IS THIS NOT THE EXISTENCE OF THE HELLSPAWN?!

TO LIVE FOREVER! TO FIGHT FOREVER! TO KILL FOREVER!

...NOW...

THAT'S... RIGHT...

WE FIGHT!

FOR NOW--

?!

SHE'S RIGHT, YOUNG'UN.

WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR BEING!

HEY, PIP-SQUEAK. YOU DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF WATCHING YON BATTLE.

!!

IS THIS THE "TRUE" FIGHTING POWER OF THE SPAWN HE SPOKE OF?

WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHAT--

!?

YOU SHOW-OFF.

OLD MAN.

URK!

HAAAA!

LITTLE CHICK-CHICK HAS TENDER LITTLE WINGS TO FLY AWAY WITH!

OH, YOU ARE GOING TO BE *DELICIOUS!*

CRUNCHY, BUT DE-LICIOUS!

OW OW OW!

OW!

HEH.

KRAK!

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO WATCH OTHERS, EITHER!

YOU--

WHEW!

I WON'T WASTE MY PRECIOUS PSYCHOPLASM JUST TO OFF ONE OLD FART LIKE YOU!

OH, SHUT-UP!

YOU SO STINGY WITH YOUR PSYCHO-PLASM YOU'LL FIGHT WITH THAT OLD THING?

HA! A CUTLASS?!

200 YEARS OF FIGHTING. TWO CENTURIES OF EXQUISITE BEAUTY...

NRGH!

I'M NOT SO LIBERAL WITH ITS USE AS YOU SEEM TO BE!

YOU!!!

YOU--

I'LL BET THAT FIRST LITTLE *CROW'S FOOT* WOULD DRIVE YOU INSANE. HOW CUTE!

?!

EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS A STORY BE-HIND IT. EVERY ONE, A BADGE OF HONOR.

LOOK AT THIS CHISELED, TORN FACE OF MINE. EVERY LAST SCAR CARRIES WITH IT A *MEMORY*. A *REASON*.

TOTAL NONSENSE.

*PRIDE?* A HELLSPAWN?

I'VE "EARNED" THESE THINGS YOU DESPISE SO... ONE BY ONE. I WEAR THEM WITH PRIDE.

ONE LIKE YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND.

THIS IS MALEBOLGIA'S SNARE, AND YOU'VE FALLEN HEADLONG INTO IT!

TO DEFEND LIFE OR TO DEFEND "YOUTH"--

THIS IS THE FATE THAT AWAITS YOU!

LOOK AT THIS, YOUNG ONE!

YOU WILL ULTIMATELY SHARE THE SAME, PATHETIC EXISTENCE OF THIS CARRIBEAN PIRATE!

WHEN YOU'VE LOST SIGHT OF WHY IT IS YOU FIGHT... WHEN YOU FIGHT ONLY FOR *YOURSELF*--

YOU, BASTARD!

THIS IS THE FATE...

DON'T FRET.

shak

...OF ALL HELLSPAWN.

!

EH?
WHA-
HAPPENED?

.....

I AM NOTHING LIKE HER!

I'LL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF MY TRUE ENEMY!

NOT SO LONG AS I'M ANCHORED BY THE NEED TO DEFEAT HIM.

I WON'T SHARE HER FATE.

I'LL DEAL WITH HIM, TOO.

OF COURSE.

WHAT'RE YOU YABBERING ABOUT?

YOU TALKING ABOUT BO-BO, THERE?

TO VANQUISH THAT ONE OPPONENT...

THIS IS MY DESTINY.

THAT IS MY DESTINY!

NOTHING WILL STOP ME.

TO RIGHT THIS WRONG IS MY REASON TO LIVE.

FROM DYING TO BEING RETURNED... I'M NOT SOME PLAY-THING.

I'LL KEEP AFTER HIM, FACE-TO-FACE, UNTIL IT IS FINALLY DONE.

UNTIL HE EXISTS NO MORE.

INTO ETERNITY, IF NEED BE.

YES.

WHATEVER TRIALS HE SETS BEFORE ME...

THE DEVIL WILL GET HIS DUE.

...I'LL BE AFTER HIM...

...WITH EVERY OUNCE OF MY BEING!

OUCH! OUCH! OUCH! OUCH!

IMPRES-SIVE.

...LITTLE CHICKY CHICKY.

I'M NOT LIKING YOUR NEW DANCE...

...YOUR FLESH ISN'T LIKE BUTTAH...

WHICH ISN'T TO SAY...

NRG!

I CAN'T CONVINCE MY-SELF YOU'RE IN THE SUPERIOR POSITION, HERE.

SHALL I LEND A HAND?

BRAVE WORDS, BOY, BUT THE WAY THIS FIGHT IS GOING, YOU'LL BE DYING LIKE THE COMMON DOG.

TWO AGAINST ONE. ISN'T THAT AGAINST YOUR VAUNTED CODE OF HONOR?

THAT'S FOUL PLAY, ZOMBIE.

DON'T INTERFERE. STAY OUT OF THIS!

I'VE GOT NO INTEN-TION OF DOING THAT...

IF I WERE TO ACCEPT YOUR HELP, HERE, THEN I'D FORSAKE MY OWN FATE AGAINST HIM.

NOW OR EVER!

!!

IN A PURELY PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION, I'VE GOT A CHANCE.

IF HIS LIMBS AREN'T IMBUED WITH PSYCHOPLASM, I CAN FIGHT HIM WITH KARATE.

I WILL NOT LOSE.

MY FATE ISN'T SEALED, YET.

GIVE ME YOUR WORD... TELL ME YOU WILL NOT INTERFERE, NO MATTER WHAT!

BRAVE JIBBER-JABBER FROM A BRATTY BALL OF MEAT.

VERY WELL.

THIS IS GETTING QUITE ENTER-TAINING.

HAVE AT IT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT.

I GIVE MY WORD THAT MY HAND WILL NOT TOUCH THIS FIGHT.

STOP FOOLING AROUND--

HEH, HA! THIS IS GETTING FUN, BOY! SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

RUNT!

THE WARRIOR'S WILL OF YOUR PEOPLE.

AH... I SEE, NOW. LET'S SEE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, BOY.

YOU SAID YOU WERE JAPANESE, RIGHT?

"武士(サムライ)の魂(アライト)"を かけた闘(たたか)いを——

THE PRIDE OF THE SAMURAI IN BATTLE--

GET READY TO MEET YOUR MAKER...

...AGAIN!

# EPISODE:9 AWAKENING —覚醒—

!!

!!!

GUOAAA!

HNH?!

HAH

MY EYE!! YOU--

RRAH!

TRY TO BRING YOUR PSYCHOPLASM FROM THE INSIDE...

...TO YOUR FIST.

?

WITH THIS KARATE BUSINESS, I MEAN.

HOW LONG YOU GOING TO PLAY AROUND, BOY?

huff

huff

IF MEMORY SERVES, YOU KARATE-KINS HAVE A SIMILAR TECHNIQUE.

I THINK THE CHINESE FIGHTERS CALLED IT, "KNEADING THE QI."

KEEP YOUR ADVICE TO YOURSELF!

SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE!

THE "QI."

"KNEAD..."

BUT EVEN IF HE UNDERSTOOD, IT'S NOT AS IF HE COULD EXECUTE SUCH A TECHNIQUE!

NEITHER HAND NOR LEG NOR WISDOM WILL YOU LEND MY DINNER!

...HE'LL BE DIGESTING IN MY BELLY!

BY THE TIME HE FIGURES IT OUT...

YOU THINK SO?

NOW *CONCENTRATE!*

YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS GOVERNS HOW THE PSYCHOPLASM WILL BEHAVE.

YOU LISTENING, BOY?

CHANNEL IT INTO YOUR FIST!

YOU MUST WILL IT!

IT FOLLOWS YOUR THOUGHTS!

CHANNEL IT.

WILL IT.

EVERY EMOTION YOU'VE EVER FELT... EVERY EMOTION YOU CAN POSSIBLY FEEL... GATHER IT ALL INTO THE HAMMER!

HATE!

ANGER!

SADNESS!

HATE.

SADNESS.

ANGER.

IS THIS IT?

!

WAIT! NOT YET!

RAHG!

HYAAAA!

THINK IT. FEEL IT. FOCUS IT. THEN, AND ONLY THEN DO YOU ATTACK.

DON'T RUSH IT.

URK--

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

GAH-HA HA HA!

WHERE IS THE SADNESS?!

WHERE IS THE HATE?!

OR WAS THAT PATHETIC DISPLAY THE WHOLE OF YOUR BEING?

...WORKED...

...THAT SHOULD HAVE...

THAT...

IN ORDER TO TAKE ON THE LIKES OF MALEBOLGIA, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAP INTO THAT WELL OF SOULFIRE!

YOU CLAIM TO WANT TO MATCH FISTS AGAINST THE DEVIL! YOUR ENTIRE BODY SHOULD BE SWIRLING WITH EMOTIONS!

FIGHT WITH CONFIDENCE.

FIGHT WITH FURY.

!

YOUR FURY WILL PAVE THE WAY TO VICTORY!

YOUR *CONFIDENCE* WILL LEAD YOU INTO BATTLE!

FURY...

THIS ISN'T A GAME, BOY!

HOW LONG YOU PLAN ON PLAYING CHRISTMAS LIGHT?

HNH.

...THE FURY TO CARRY ME INTO WAR...

...RAGE!

...FURY...

ANGER...

...CAN'T...
...BE...
IT...
WITH A THOUGHT!
NOW! LET LOOSE THAT ANGER THE SAME WAY YOU GATHERED IT!

おおお……
AS IF I'D EVEN LET YOU TRY!

AAAAAH!!

GRAA AA!

Hngh--

HOOO!

UNH...

KID TRYING TO LEARN TO SHOOT WITH A .44 MAGNUM...

HEH.

A LITTLE WHELP LIKE THAT...

HOW--

HOW COULD--

...FOR AN UNTRAINED SPAWN TO UNLEASH SO MUCH POWER IN THE FIRST GO...

IT'S IMPRES-SIVE...

HE'S NOT THE TYPICAL SHADOW OF SPAWN EVERY-ONE MAKES HIM OUT TO BE.

...HE'D RIVAL THE MOST POWER-FUL AMONG THE HELL-SPAWN.

NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR PRAISE--

!

STILL... TO MARRY THAT KIND OF POWER TO THE DEDICATION NECESSARY TO ENTER THIS BATTLE...

THINK YOU CAN COME IN WITH THAT KIND OF COCKY ATTITUDE AND DE-FEAT ME?

YOU'VE REALLY PUSHED MY BUT-TONS, BRAT.

FUN AND GAMES TIME IS AT AN END, BOY. I'LL MAKE SURE TO TAKE BACK PLENTY OF PSYCHO-PLASM TO PAY-OFF THE ARM YOU JUST TOOK FROM ME.

I AM INDES-TRUCTIBLE!

GRG!

AND I'LL DO IT BY DEVOUR-IING YOUR WHOLE BODY!

I'LL MAKE SURE TO CHEW YOU INTO A PULP AND EXTRACT EVERY LAST OUNCE OF PSYCHOPLASM FROM YOUR CARCASS!

ghuff

ghuff

ghuff

ghuff

!!

tweeeee!

?!

GRARRR!

MY WRIST!

Agheee!!

MANGEE! SO YOU WERE LURKING ABOUT AFTER ALL!

Grrrrrr

Rouf!

CHEATS! ALL OF YOU!

WHEREVER I GO, MANGLER ISN'T FAR BEHIND.

I'LL REMEMBER THIS, ZOMBIE!

BASTARDS!!

EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!

NEXT TIME WE CROSS PATHS, I'LL KILL YOU AND YOUR LITTLE BAND!

huh!

HEH. WE'LL BE WAITING WITH BATED BREATH, BO-BO!

HE'S A FRIEND. HE FIGHTS AT MY SIDE AS A COMRADE-AT-ARMS.

DON'T BE AN IDIOT. MANGLER'S NO ONE'S "WATCH DOG..."

THIS CREATURE YOUR WATCHDOG?

huff

huff

...AND EVEN THEN, NOT QUITE A WOLF. MORE LIKE A HALF-BESTIAL, HALF-HUMANOID WOLF.

HE'S NO DOG. MANGLER'S PSYCHOPLASM CONSCIOUSNESS IS MORE AKIN TO THAT OF A WOLF...

SO EVEN DOGS AREN'T SPARED BE-COMING MALE-BOLGIA'S SERVANTS.

WHY WOULD HE? HE'S JUST A DOG, AFTER ALL.

MANGLER'S GOT NOTHING TO SAY.

NOT SURE I'M FOLLOW-ING YOU.

HNNN.

"LEND A HAND?" IF YOU'LL RECALL, I ONLY LENT A FEW WORDS. MANGLER LENT A...PAW...

EVEN SO...

...I COULD'VE SWORN YOU PROMISED NOT TO--

...CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR BEING OBEDIENT.

WELL...

EEP!

PRAISE BE TO THE SAND DEVIL'S RETREAT.

WOLF.

THIS DOG JUST TALKED!

HEY!

YOU'RE ONE TO SPEAK OF ANOTHER'S ABILITY TO TALK, STUTTER-KIND. BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL NEW TO THIS, I'M USING THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO COMMUNICATE. CALL IT "TELEPATHY."

BUT...

...BUT...

...BUT...

NOT TALKING, EXACTLY. ANIMAL TONGUES AREN'T FORMED TO SPEAK IN HUMAN DIALECTS. HE'S TRANSMITTING HIS THOUGHTS DIRECTLY TO YOU.

FOLLOW ME.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON THESE ELEMENTARY MATTERS.

TELE-PATHIC DOG...

WOLF.

...I MUST TEACH YOU.

THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF THINGS...

USE BO-BO'S LIMB FRAGMENTS TO REPLENISH HER LOST PSYCHOPLASM.

MANGEE. PICK-UP OUR LADY PIRATE FRIEND, HERE AND BRING HER UP TO THE MANSION.

TEACH ME?

!

IS THERE EVEN ANY HOPE TO SAVE HER?

THIS WOMAN...

SHE DIDN'T GIVE A FEINT. DIDN'T TRY TO DODGE. JUST LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE EYE AND SMILED.

DIDN'T YOU NOTICE HER REACTION TO MY PSYCHO-CANNON?

...SHE'D LOST HER WAY A LONG TIME AGO. SHE WAS LITERALLY LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO DIE.

FOR ALL THE TOUGH GIRL ACT AND SMART MOUTH...

CONVENIENT DODGE OF MY QUES-TION, ISN'T IT?

WHAT?

AS TO HOPE, HOW IS SHE ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE SAMURAI-KID?

THE KACHINAS... I CAN HEAR THE KACHINAS GROWING LOUDER BY THE DAY...

AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WHAT MORE CAN WE DO THAN GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT?

...IS FAST APPROACH-ING...

NOT IN THE LEAST.

NOT FOL-LOWING THIS--

...THE DAY OF RECK-ONING...

MIXING WITH THE SCREAMS OF WAR FROM HELL'S OWN MINIONS.

THE HOPI INDIAN KACHINAS... HARBINGERS OF BATTLE... THEIR CACAUPHONY IS ESCALATING.

THE TIME GROWS NEAR.

DON'T GET RESTLESS, MY CHILDREN. SOON. VERY SOON.

VERY SOON, IT WILL BE TIME!

...THEIR VOICES ALL INTER-MINGLING. I CAN NO LONGER TELL ONE APART FROM THE OTHER.

THE SONGS AND SCREAMS OF WAR...

...ENDLESS...

...DEAFENING...

# EPISODE.10 ACTRESS -女優-

Y'KNOW...

...I NEVER PICTURED A MANSION LIKE THIS AS BEING THE HOME OF A SPAWN.

THIS IS ALL TO MAINTAIN MY OUT-WARD APPEARANCE.

ALL THAT YOU SEE IS NOT FOR SAKE OF POMP AND CIRCUM-STANCE.

THINK IT'D DRAW UNWANTED ATTENTION, TO OUR EXISTENCE, RIGHT?

...APPEARANCE?

OUTWARD...

TO THE WORLD BEYOND THESE DOORS, I LEAD ANOTHER LIFE. AS A "HUMAN."

MY IDENTITY IN THIS WORLD ISN'T JUST THAT OF A HELLSPAWN.

THEY'RE AN EIGHTH GENERATION, FINE SILVER JEWELRY COMPANY.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE *COCOPELI COMPANY?*

COCOPELI?
YES, I HAVE. THEY DEAL WITH ARTISAN, INDIAN STUFF, RIGHT?

THEY'VE GOT A HUGE OFFICE BUILDING IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN.

THAT'S THE ONE. IN ITS 120 YEAR EXISTENCE, IT'S HAD ALL OF EIGHT C.E.O.S. ALL FAMILY RELATED.

OF COURSE, ALL OF THEM, *ME.*

OVER TIME, HOWEVER, THOSE SAME "AMERICANS" SPURNED A TASTE FOR THAT WHICH THEY NEARLY MADE EXTINCT.

WHEN THE EUROPEANS CAME TO AMERICA, THEY ALL BUT DECIMATED THE INDIGENOUS INDIANS. ALL OF THEM.

QUITE THE CONTRARY, IT WAS DONE IN THE NAME OF SURVIVAL. WHILE MY CULTURE AND MY PEOPLE DIED OFF, THE LONGEVITY OF THEIR ART CARRIES WITH THEM THE SOUL AND PRIDE OF A ONCE GREAT PEOPLE.

NONE OF THIS WAS STARTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING MATERIAL WEALTH.

LISTEN WELL, YOUNG ONE.

TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF TAKING ON THIS BURDEN, YOU'LL BE PUTTING YOUR PRIDE ON THE LINE.

MY WILL... MY STRENGTH TO CARRY ON THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DEVIL STEMS FROM MY PRIDE. THAT OF MY PEOPLE. THAT OF MY SELF.

*PRIDE.*

UNDERSTAND THIS FULLY BEFORE YOU CONSIDER JOINING THIS ETERNAL ENDEAVOR.

NOT JUST YOUR LIFE.

NOT JUST YOUR SOUL.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF YOU FIGHT FOR YOURSELF OR *HIM* SO LONG AS HE'S DEFEATED?

...?

swoosh

THE *REASON* FOR YOUR BATTLE IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE BATTLE ITSELF.

blip

vrrm

LIKE HER.

OTHERWISE, YOU'LL LOSE YOUR WAY. BECOME A SLIVER OF WHAT YOU USED TO BE.

THE REASON IS YOUR ANCHOR. IT'S WHAT WILL KEEP YOU WHOLE THROUGH IT ALL.

HOW IS SHE, MANGEE?

...BUT...

SHE'LL WAKE SOON...

THERE WAS PLENTY OF PSYCHOPLASM LEFT IN BODY-BREAKER'S LIMB TO USE AS A SALVE. SHE'LL BE FINE.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE CAN'T LET HER FALL INTO HIS CLUTCHES AGAIN.

THIS WOMAN HAS SEEN THE TRUTH OF MALE-BOLGIA.

MAYBE YES. MAYBE NO.

BUT WON'T SHE JUST TURN ON US, RIGHT?

LUCK WILLING, OUR MERRY LITTLE BAND MIGHT EVEN FIND ITSELF WITH A NEW ALLY, RATHER THAN A HIGHLY SKILLED ENEMY.

Squeak!
Squeak!
Squeak!
Squeak!

Squeak!

THE CHANGE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY...

COCO CHANEL

huff

huff

I'M THE TOP FEMALE ACTION STAR IN THE WORLD!

ARE THEY SAYING I CAN'T HOLD A LEADING ROLE ANY-MORE?

HOW DARE THEY MOCK ME... CAL-LING ME MIDDLE AGED...

AS THEY SAY, OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

HNH--

THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF TALK AROUND THE OL' WATER COOLER. YOU KNOW. CHANGING OF THE GUARD KIND OF CHATTER--

# 06.

THAT THEY'D REPLACE ME WITH THIS... THIS *LITTLE GIRL!*

MARIKO KUROSAWA

LET'S BE REAL, MARIKO. THE STUDIOS ARE TURNING TO YOU AS THEIR NEW MAN-KIL-LER.

HNH.

SHE'S BEEN TEACHING ME THE ROPES.

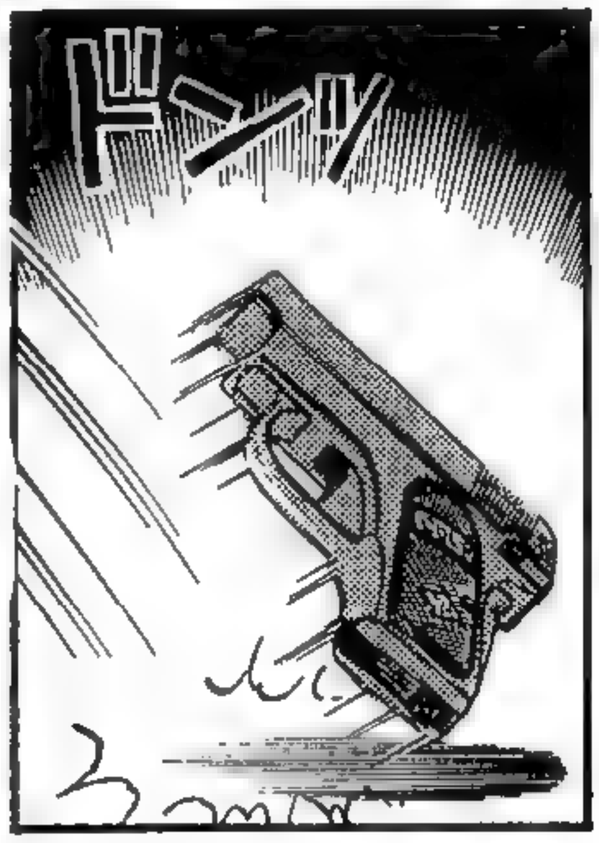
OH, NO. ELLIS IS MY IDOL. I'M AFRAID YOUR GOSSIP IS WRONG.

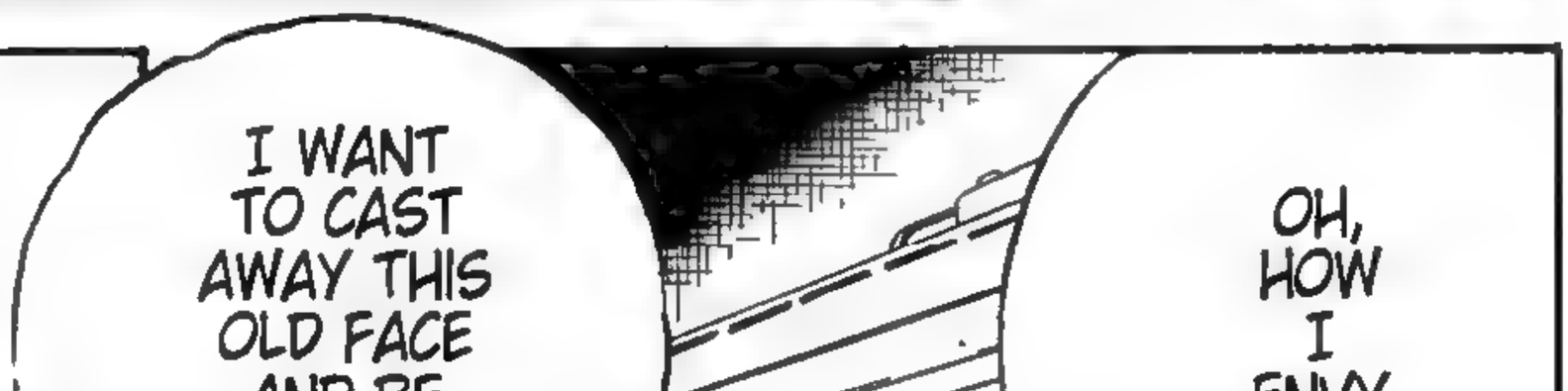
...HAS GONE THE WAY OF HER VOICE. SOUTH! LIKE HER BREAS--

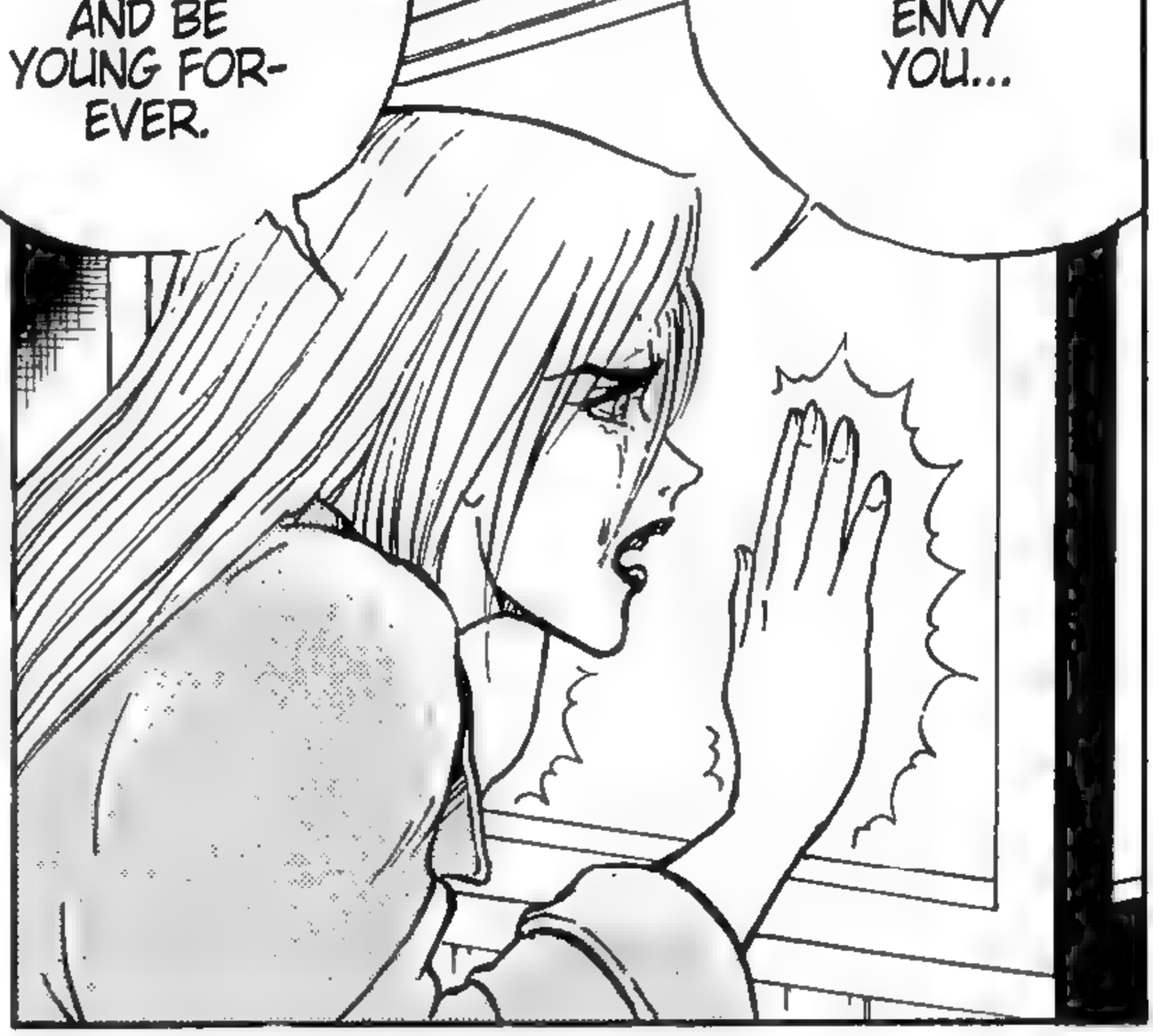
...AND, TRUTH BE TOLD, ELLIS BENNET'S PHYSICAL CON-DITIONING...

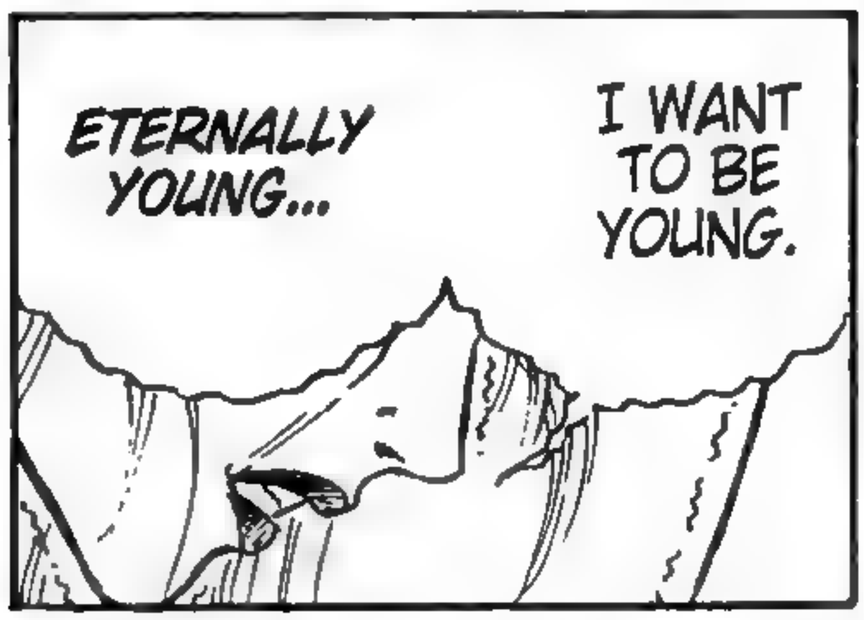
BLAM!

I HATE GROWING OLD!
I HATE IT!
CAN'T STAND IT!!




I WANT TO CAST AWAY THIS OLD FACE AND BE YOUNG FOR-EVER.
OH, HOW I ENVY YOU...




ETERNALLY YOUNG...
I WANT TO BE YOUNG.

I DON'T CARE WHAT I HAVE TO DO FOR IT! EVEN IF I HAVE TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL!

ETERNAL YOUTH, DO YOU HEAR ME?!

?!

HEH, HEH, HEH. THEN I THINK IT'S TIME WE TALKED...

...WHO'S THERE?

WHO...

!!

HUH?

...IF IT'S ETERNAL YOUTH YOU WANT...

COME THIS WAY...

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT.

...YOU'LL HAVE TO SIGN THIS CONTRACT.

OVER HERE.

NOW, COME.

SIGN.

Thud

Heh! Heh! Heh!

:snicker:

Gaaaaha-ha-ha!

ha-ha-ha-ha

ha-ha-ha-ha!!

READY TO MAKE MAGIC, MARIKO?

OKAY, PEOPLE! WE'RE TURNIN' IT UP A NOTCH!

I SEE.

BUT FOR NOW, RATHER THAN SITTING AROUND WAITING TO GO, IT WAS EASIER TO JUST COME STRAIGHT TO WORK.

I KNOW.

WE HAD TIME TO TAKE CARE OF THE... "OTHER" THINGS.

...YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DOCTOR CARTER'S MURDER...

BUT CHRIS...

BE THAT AS IT MAY, THIS PROJECT IS A MURDER-MYSTERY. AND THAT "UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT" IS A PROPAGANDA FEST. OUR PRODUCERS ARE LOVING IT.

DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT ME. I'M NOT ANYTHING OF THE SORT!

SHE'S RUNNING LATE--

WHERE'S ELLIS?

YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M TALKING OUT OF LINE.

GOOD MORNING!

ELLIS!

I'D NEVER ALLOW MYSELF TO BE A TROUBLEMAKER FOR OUR LITTLE MARIKO.

!

GOOD MORNING!

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

.....

NO, NO! I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!

OH? DOES THAT MEAN I'VE BEEN LOOKING LIKE HELL ALL THIS TIME?

...YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY RAVISHING, ELLIS.

I WAS JUST NOTICING THAT TODAY...

I WISH YOU THE BEST, ELLIS. TODAY AND EVERY DAY.

WHAT-EVER YOUR REASONS,

WITH YOU BEING AS CUTESY AS YOU ARE, A LADY HAS TO DO WHAT SHE MUST TO BE NO-TICED.

REALLY? THANK YOU.

YOU ALWAYS LOOK GREAT, ELLIS. BUT TODAY, YOU REALLY HEATED UP THE LOOK.

?!

WH--?

YOU, TOO.

OKAY?

ALL THE BEST!

UHM... THANK YOU?

.....

IT'S A BIT MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT.

TEACH ME.

WAIT...

...BEFORE THAT...

WHY ARE THE DEAD RESURRECTED INTO THIS FORM?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HELLSPAWN?

EXACTLY WHAT THE HELL KIND OF EXISTENCE ARE WE TRAPPED IN?!

IS THIS SOME SORT OF FANTASY WORLD? OR AFTERLIFE? ARE WE LIVING AMONG MYTHICAL CREATURES? OR ANGELS?

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE WORLD DURING THAT TIME?

I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR SEVEN YEARS.

THAT EVERY-THING IS A QUESTION TO A NEWLY BORN HELLSPAWN. ALL QUESTIONS, NO ANSWERS. A TERRIBLE MINDSET.

HEH. I SUPPOSE IT'S TO BE EX-PECTED.

THAT... "TIME."

BIBLICAL SCRIPTURE REFERS TO THIS MOMENT AS "ARMAGEDDON."

THE END TIME.

"THAT TIME" HAS BEGUN.

THERE'S A MERGING OF TWO DISTINCT REALITIES.

AR... ARMAGED-DON?

AND ON THE OTHER, THE WORLD NOT OF ELEMENTS, BUT OF NECROPLASM AND PSYCHOPLASM... THESE ARE CONTROLLED BY THOUGHT. TWO WORLDS THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE MET HAVE STARTED TO OVERLAP...

ON THE ONE SIDE, ELEMENTS, WHICH FORM EVERYTHING FROM DNA TO ALL KNOWN MATTER... ALL CONTROLLED BY THE LAWS OF PHYSICS AND BIOLOGY...

AS THIS MERGING CONTINUES, HUMANS HAVE BEEN VESTED WITH PSYCHOPLASM AS A TEST, OF SORTS.

THE SHORT VERSION OF IT IS SIMPLY THIS.

STARTING SEVEN YEARS AGO...

CAN'T BE HELPED.

JUDGING BY THAT LOST LOOK, YOU'RE NOT GETTING THIS.

WHAT?!

.....

FOLLOW ME.

THE FIRST STEP TO UNDERSTANDING ALL THAT IS HAPPENING, IS TO FIRST UNDER-STAND YOUR-SELF.

FIGURE THAT OUT, AND THE REST WILL START TO EXPLAIN ITSELF.

AND EVEN IF HE DID, WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO?

SO, THE PIRATE LASS HAS FINALLY COME TO.

THE HELLSPAWNS LIVE TO FIGHT. FIGHT FOR ALL ETERNITY. FIGHT UNTIL THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO KILL, OR ARE KILLED.

WHAT GOOD WOULD IT DO HIM?

EVEN IF HE WERE TO FIGURE THAT OUT...

kashing!

AS IN, EVEN NOW?!

IS THIS THE PATH YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW?

TO FIGHT FOREVER.

BUT--

REPRIEVE? YOU'RE ONE TO TALK.

TODAY, YOU'VE GOT A REPRIEVE.

HMPH.

...IT MAY PROVE TO BE A FATAL MISTAKE.

AS TO YOUR SAVING MY LIFE...

...TO OFF ONE OF THE ENEMY.

LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED THE CHANCE...

YOU THINK?

SHE'D NOT HAVE ANNOUNCED HER PRESENCE TO US. PROBABLY STRUCK FROM THE SHADOWS AT OUR BACKS. IN SHORT...

*...WE'D BE DEAD.*

IF SHE TRULY BELIEVED ALL THAT CRAP SHE JUST RECITED TO US, THIS SHATTERED WINDOW IS NOT WHAT WE'D BE STARING AT.

WONDER, INDEED.

HMPH. I WONDER.

IF I DIDN'T MISS MY GUESS, I'D SAY OUR PIRATE FRIEND GOT A DOSE OF THAT OL' CARIBBEAN PRIDE JARRED LOOSE.

THAT WILL BE HER REASON FOR FIGHTING, NOW.

WHAT IT MEANS IS SHE'S REDISCOVERED HER PRIDE.

YOU CAN STAY IN THIS ROOM.

I'VE GATHERED A NUMBER OF BOOKS AND ARTIFACTS TO BEGIN YOUR EDUCATION.

.....

I, UHM...

READ. LEARN. FILL-UP THAT HOLLOW SKULL OF YOURS WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE FOR A CHANGE.

YOU'LL SELF-STUDY IN THE BEGINNING.

THE PSYCHO-PLASM THAT MAKE-UP YOUR SUIT WILL ABSORB THE INFORMATION FOR YOU.

AND EVEN THEN, YOU WON'T BE MEM-ORIZING.

DON'T WORRY. YOU JUST NEED TO MEMORIZE.

YOU PROBABLY NEVER EVEN WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL, AM I RIGHT?

YOU'D BE SURPRISED. A BIG HIT AT PARTIES, TOO.

PSYCHOPLASM WILL DO THAT AS WELL?

LEARN HOW SCREWED-UP THE WORLD REALLY IS.

KEEP THESE T.V. MONITORS ON AT ALL TIMES.

WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE GOINGS ONS OF THE EVENTS AROUND US.

THANKS FOR THE EXTRA ASSISTS!

OH, ELLIS!

ARIKO
ROSAWA

FOR EVERY-THING!

I WILL. THANK YOU!

MY SHOOT IS DONE, SO BREAK A LEG OUT THERE, OKAY?

ANYTIME!

WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT!

OKAY, THEN.

GOOD NIGHT, ELLIS!

!!

Kyaaaa!

GOOD NIGHT, LITTLE MARIKO.

GOOD NIGHT FOREVER!

...I'D BE THE ONLY STAR ON THIS SHOOT...

IF YOU WERE TO DIS-APPEAR...

Ha!
HaHa
HaHa!

JUZO TOKORO
PRESENTS

# SHADOWS OF SPAWN

3

THE MASTER MANIPULATOR, MALEBOLGIA IS HELLBENT ON BRINGING ABOUT THE FINAL CONFLICT: ARMAGEDDON.

MALEBOLGIA
メルボージャ
よい く

ONCE A SERVANT TO MALEBOLGIA, VIOLATOR NOW HAS SCHEMES OF HIS OWN TO PURSUE...

VIOLATOR
バイオレーター

ZOMBIE SPAWN
ゾンビ・スポーン
ダイオワ

CHEVEYO ("ZOMBIE") HAS BECOME A MENTOR TO KEN IN THE QUEST TO DEFEAT THEIR COMMON FOE AND SAVE THE WORLD FROM A GRISLY FATE.

SPAWN
スポーン/KK

KEN KUROSAWA, ONE-TIME GANGSTER-FOR-HIRE, RETURNED FROM THE DEAD TO FULFILL A PROMISE TO HIS SISTER. NOW, HE FIGHTS TO SAVE HUMANITY ITSELF.

MARIKO KUROSAWA
マリコ

HOLLYWOOD'S NEWEST ACTION STAR SENSATION, SHE HAS ENEMIES OF WHOM SHE IS NOT AWARE, AND A DARK, GUARDIAN ANGEL TO WATCH OVER HER.

# SHADOWS OF SPAWN CHARACTERS

## STORY

AFTER RETURNING FROM THE DEAD, ONLY TO FIND HIS REASON FOR DOING SO, MARIKO, IS NO LONGER IN NEED OF HIS PROTECTION, KEN IS COAXED BY VIOLATOR TO SEEK A SPAWN WARRIOR WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY ELUDED MALEBOLGIA'S WRATH FOR MANY CENTURIES. THE INITIAL MEETING WITH THE "ZOMBIE SPAWN" (CHEVEYO) PROVED TO BE NEAR-FATAL FOR KEN, BUT IN THE END, HIS ADVANCED SKILL FOR A RELATIVELY NEW SPAWN COUPLED WITH THE SAMURAI'S SPIRIT CONVINCED CHEVEYO TO AT LEAST TRY AND TRAIN THE TENACIOUS YOUTH.

BUT INSTEAD OF THE "EASY ANSWER" KEN SOUGHT WITH WHICH TO DEFEAT MALEBOLGIA ONCE AND FOR ALL, HE FINDS THAT THE EVENTS ALREADY IN MOTION...INDEED, HIS EXISTENCE ITSELF, IS FAR MORE COMPLICATED THAN HE COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED. WORSE, MARIKO'S LIFE REMAINED IN CONSTANT DANGER, OFTENTIMES WITHOUT HER KNOWLEDGE. SO CONTINUES THE BATTLE, BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT OF THIS SHADOW OF SPAWN!

# EPISODE.11 JEALOUSY ―嫉妬―

...GLOBAL WARMING TRENDS A FLUKE...

..."INSURGENCIES" IN THE REGION BY GUERILLA FORCES HAVE CREATED MASSIVE CASUALTIES OF INNOCENTS...

...THE HURRICANE COUNT FOR THIS YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BREAK ALL RECORDS WITH AN ASTOUNDING 1000 STORM SYSTEMS...

...MUSLIM TERRORISTS STRIKE INDISCRIMINANTLY AROUND THE WORLD, FORCING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO CONSIDER FULL-BORN RETALIATION, OR RETREAT...

...AS THE MILLENNIUM DRAWS TO A CLOSE, CULT ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD PREPARE FOR WHAT THEY SEE AS THE END TIME...

...WATCHING THESE SEVEN YEARS WORTH OF VIDEOS ON THE MONITORS...

...IT'S NOT THE SAME WORLD IT WAS WHEN I FIRST LEFT IT.

IT'S A SCREWED-UP, UPSIDE DOWN WORLD...

...SAN FRANCISCO P.D. ARE REPORTING A SUDDEN SURGE IN UNUSUALLY VIOLENT CRIMES WHICH HAVE SET A NEW PREC...

...THE MAN IDENTIFIED AS "JOHN HOWARD," WAS THOUGHT TO BE DEAD AND LAID TO REST THREE YEARS AGO. AUTHORITIES ARE NOW STRUGGLING WITH WHAT IS NOW CONSIDERED AN UNSOLVED MURDER...

THE WORST PART OF IT IS HOW THESE STORIES USED TO ONLY BE CARRIED BY CHEESY, SUPERMARKET TABLOIDS.

NOW, THEY'VE GOT THREE FULL NETWORKS TO COVER THESE TYPES OF SURREAL "INCIDENTS".

...IT'S NOT JUST HOPI TRIBES TALKING ABOUT THE END OF AN AGE...

...GANG IN THE AREA HAVE COMPLAINED BITTERLY OF AN ASSASSIN IN THEIR WORLD DESCRIBED ONLY AS A "TERMINATOR" LIKE CYBORG...

THE "MERGING" OF REALITIES...

IS THIS WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?

LOOK INTO OUR HISTORY AND YOU'LL FIND MOMENTS IN TIME WHERE THIS EVENT HAS TAKEN PLACE. EVERY CENTURY OR SO, THE SAME THING HAPPENS.

SURPRISED THAT BEINGS LIKE US FIGHT TO SAVE A WORLD LIKE THIS?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

*ABERRATIONS OF NATURE* ARE THE ULTIMATE RESULT. COLLECTIVELY, HUMANKIND HAS REFERRED TO THEM SIMPLY AS, "*MONSTERS.*"

THE TWO REALITIES MERGE...

...PSYCHOPLASM MEETS HUMAN FLESH...

ANGEL OR DEMON, IT'S ALL A MATTER OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S CORE BEING.

EXACTLY WHAT THEY'D BECOME WAS A MATTER OF THEIR SPIRITUAL LEANINGS. THE PSYCHOPLASM MERELY REFLECTED THAT IN THE FINAL CREATURE.

JUST A BLOB OF PSYCHO-PLASM.

SHE'S THE SAME THING AS WE ARE.

HOLD ON! ANGELS--

YOU MEAN EVEN--

...ONE AND THE SAME...

DEVIL AND ANGEL...

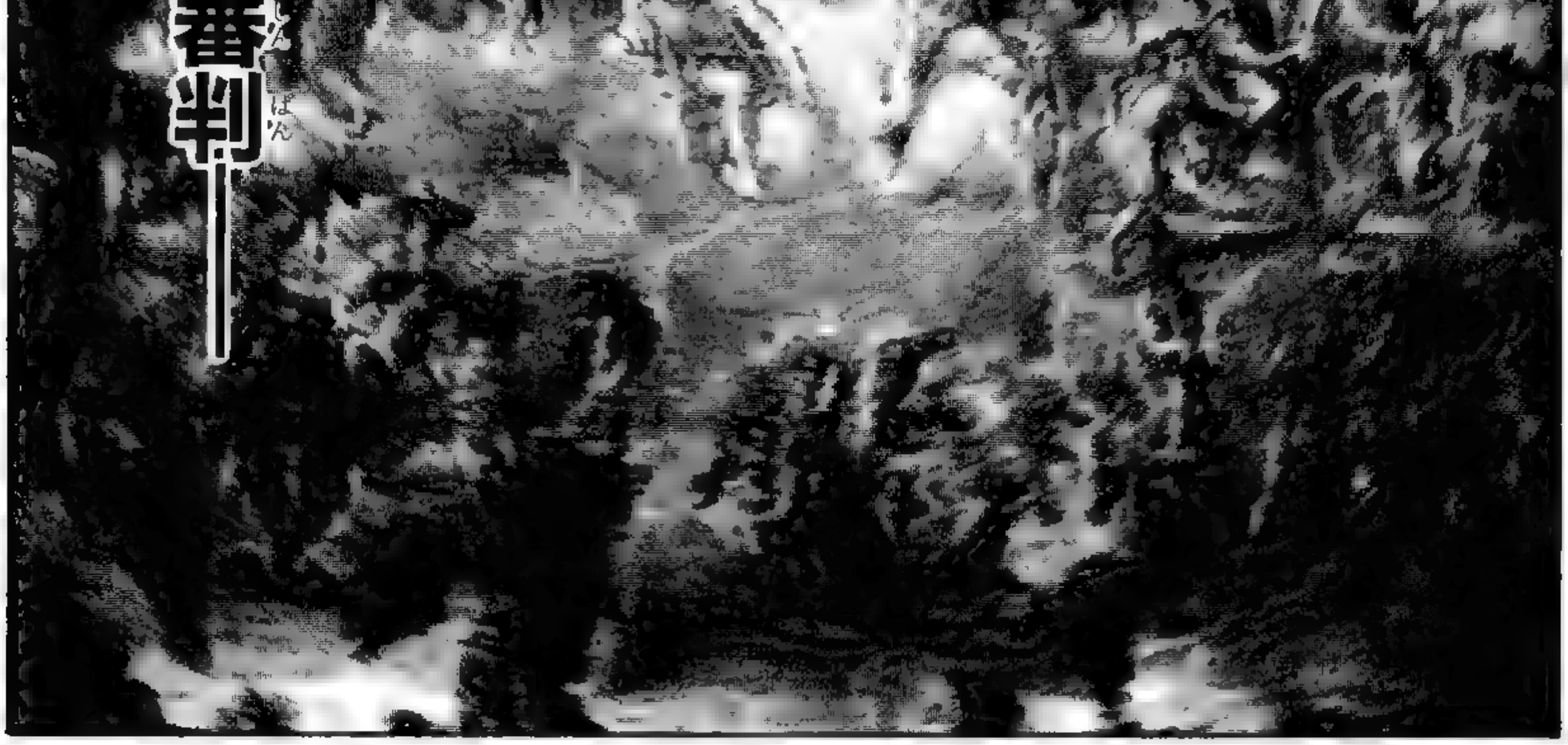
*MIKAELA...?!*

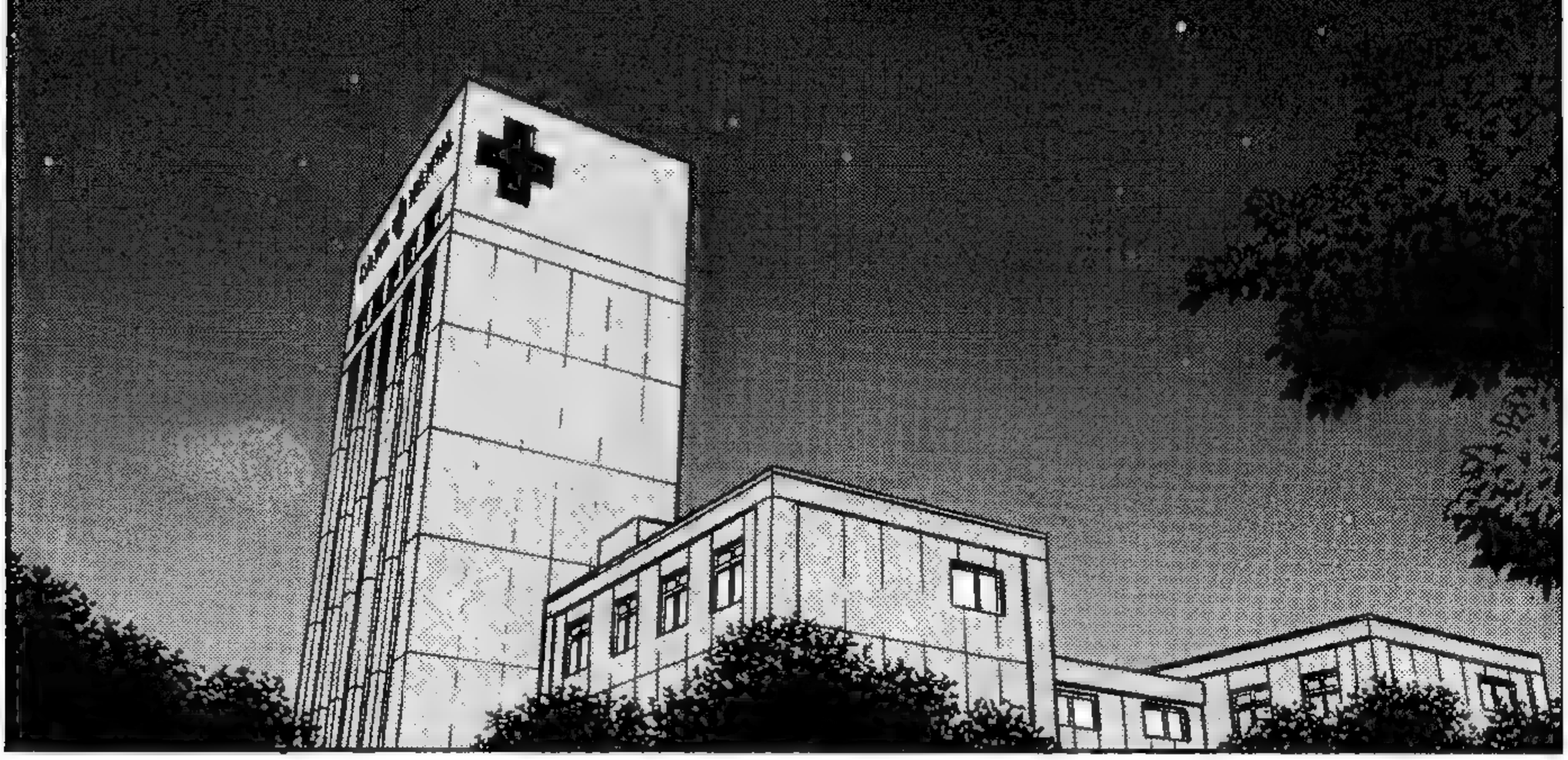
WHAT *IS* KNOWN IS THAT THE END RESULT IS THE *SPIRIT MADE FLESH.*

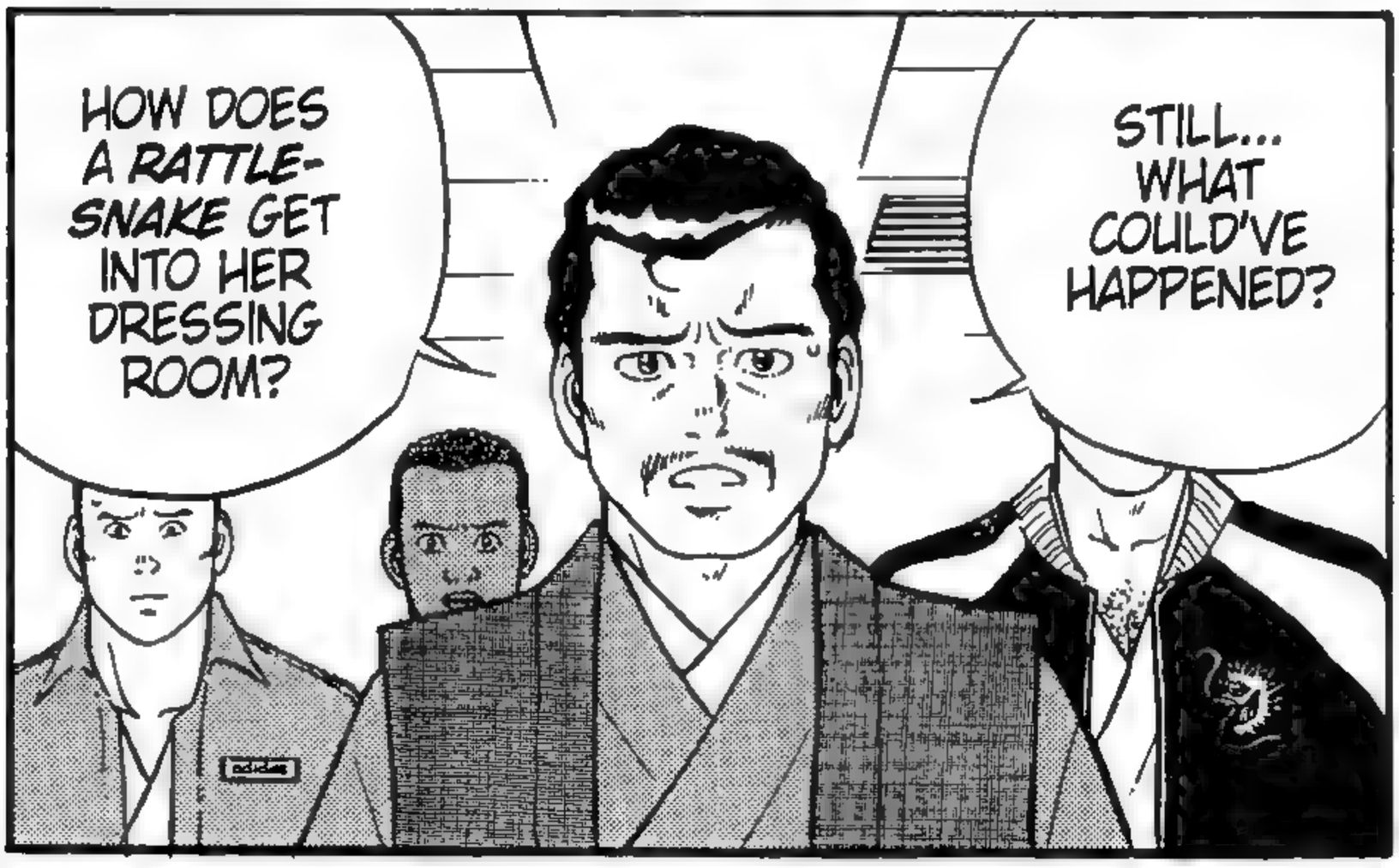
THE RENDERING OF THE PSYCHOPLASM IS A PHENOMENON THAT IS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN. HOW IT MEASURES A HUMAN'S SOUL, A COMPLETE MYSTERY.

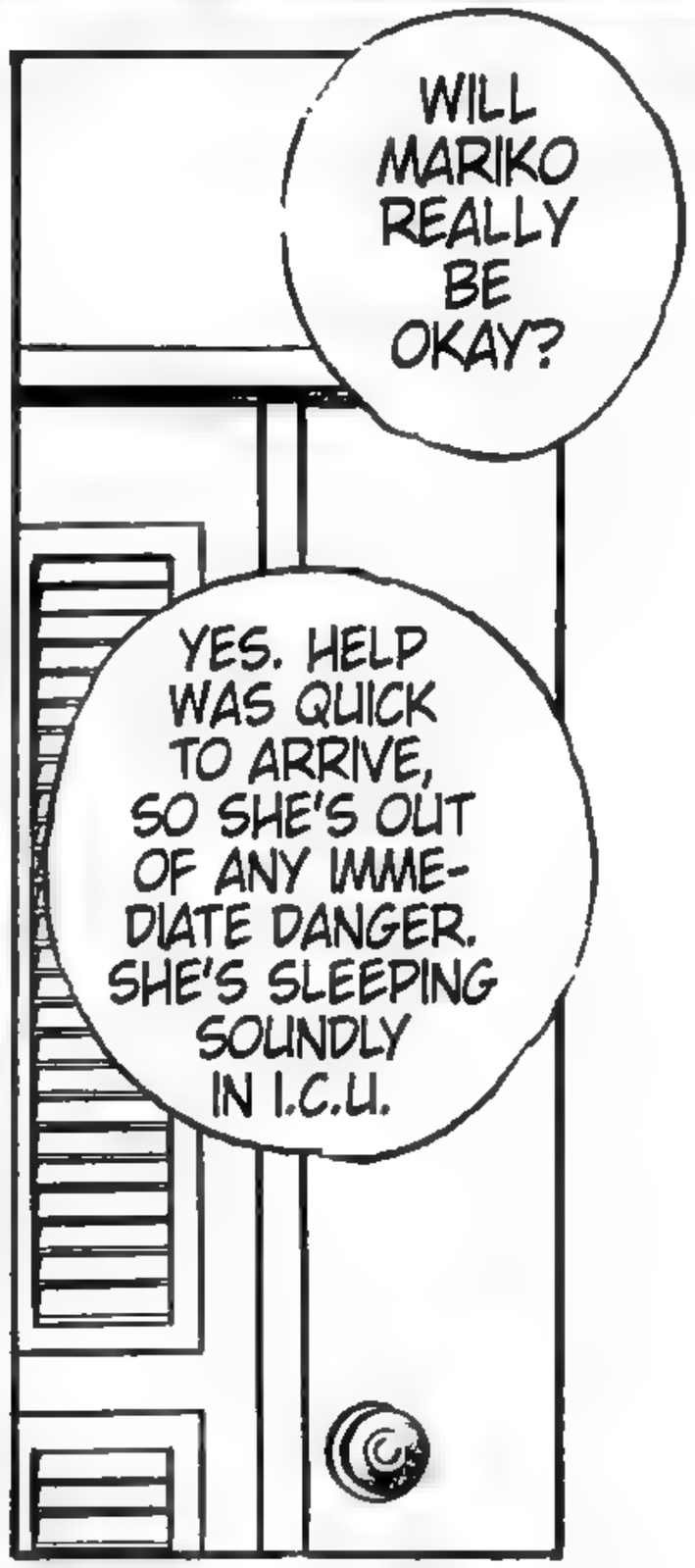
ARMAGEDDON:

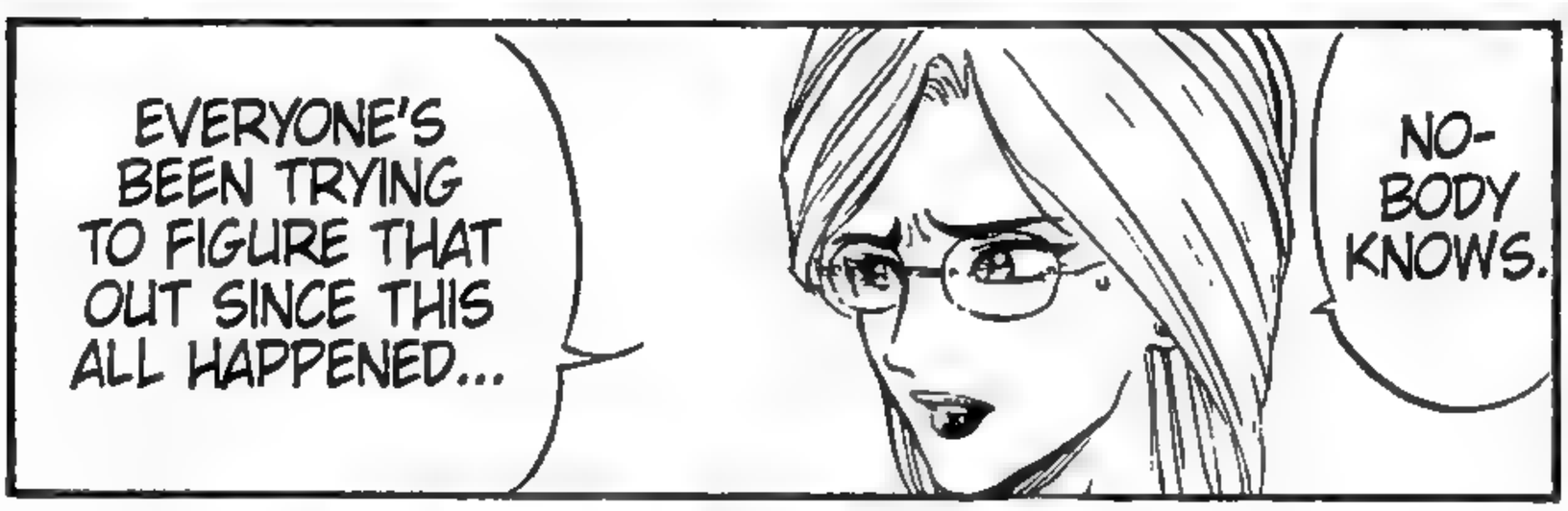
# 最後の審判






HOW DOES A RATTLE-SNAKE GET INTO HER DRESSING ROOM?
STILL... WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED?


WILL MARIKO REALLY BE OKAY?
YES. HELP WAS QUICK TO ARRIVE, SO SHE'S OUT OF ANY IMME-DIATE DANGER. SHE'S SLEEPING SOUNDLY IN I.C.U.


EVERYONE'S BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE THAT OUT SINCE THIS ALL HAPPENED...
NO-BODY KNOWS.

INTER-FERING LITTLE MANAGER GIRL...
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, MARIKO MAY NOT BE WITH US, TODAY.
DON'T BEAT YOUR-SELF UP, CHRIS.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SIR. MARIKO IS MY RESPON-SIBILITY--

TO THINK SHE'S OUT OF HARM'S WAY IS A SERIOUS, SERIOUS MISTAKE!

BUT...

MARIKO.

ALL THE FATIGUE OF WORK CAN FINALLY BE RELIEVED, HEH?

HMM. RESTING SO PEACE-FULLY.

TOSHIO!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

バン

BUT EVEN SLEEP-ING...

...SHE'S SO CUUUTE!

EH?

THANK GOOD-NESS IT WASN'T SERIOUS!

WHOO! WHAT A RELIEF!

RIGHT GUYS?!

...YOU KNOW. ON BEHALF OF ALL THE DOJO FELLAS.

AHH, I'M HERE TO CHECK ON MARIKO...

UH-OH...

W-W-WAIT!

WE'RE ON THE THIRD FLOOR!

YESSIR!

GUYS, NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO, NOW. GO ON HOME, OKAY?

UN-DER-STOOD. WE'LL GO, NOW.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO RETIRE TO THE WAITING ROOM. I PROMISE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.

YAMAMOTO-SAN, THE HEAD NURSE HAS JUST GIVEN ME THE FULL REPORT--

HGAK!

SSSS

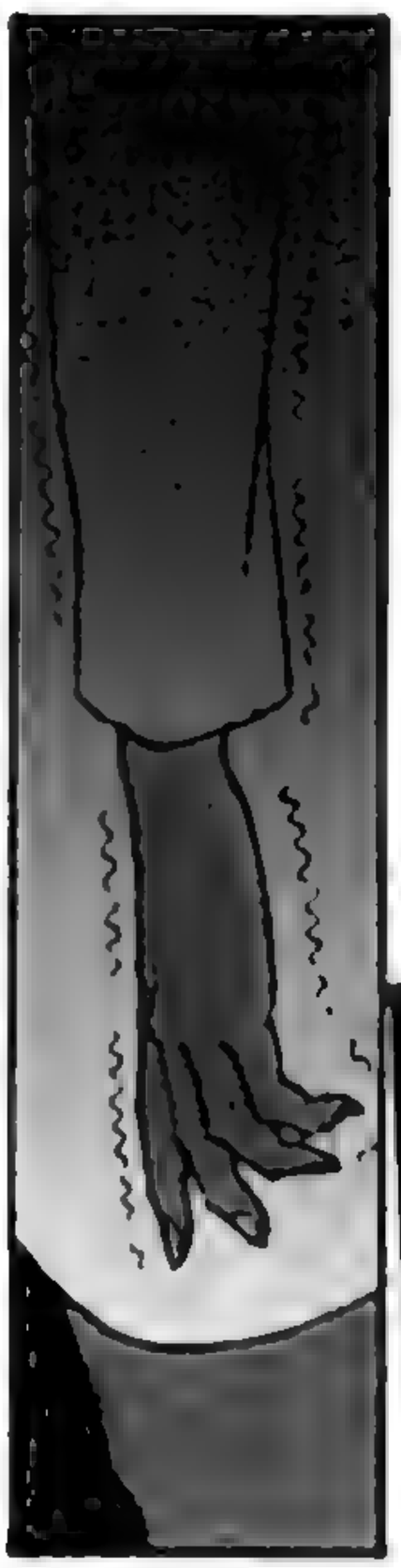
WHA-

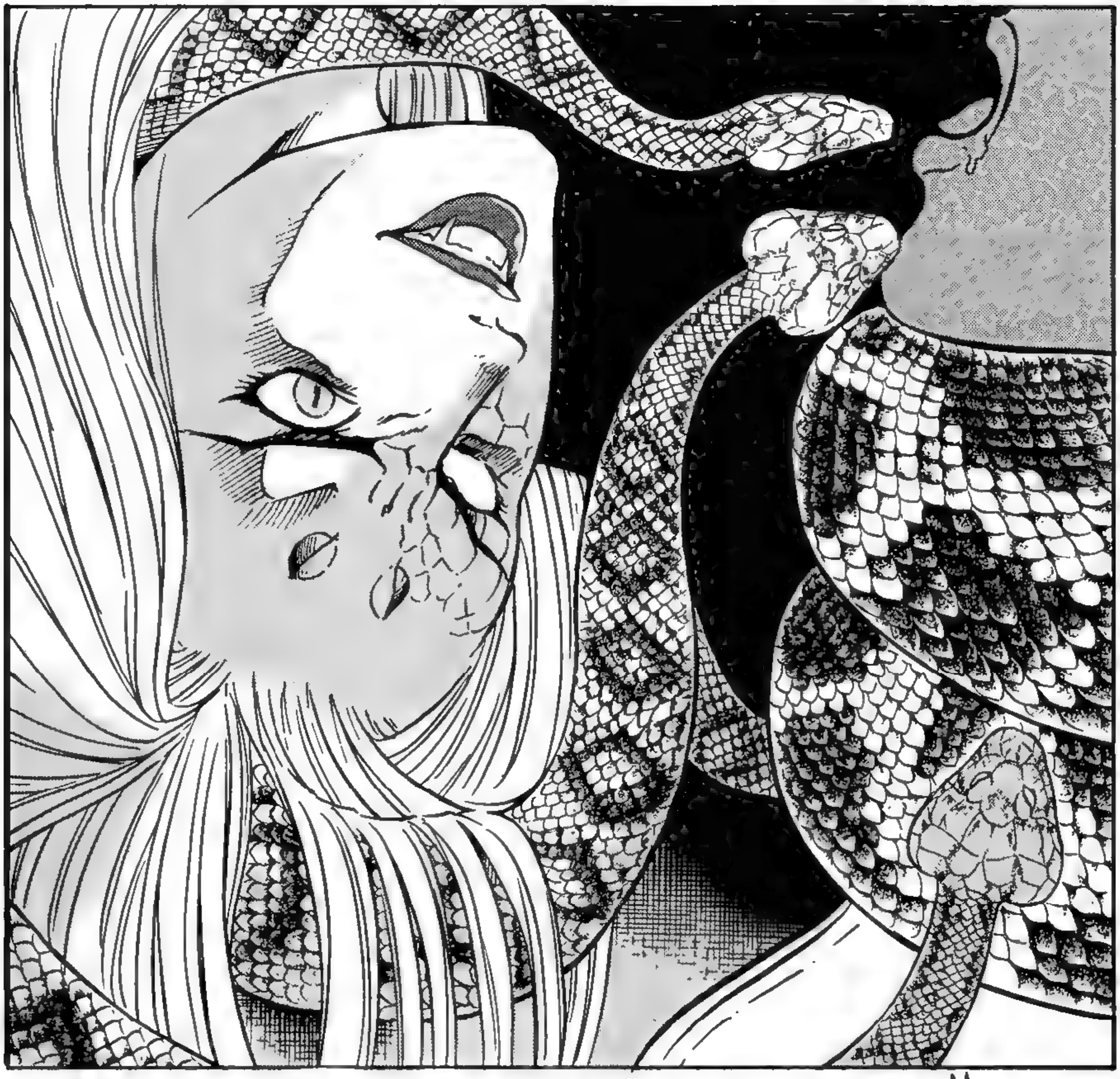
!

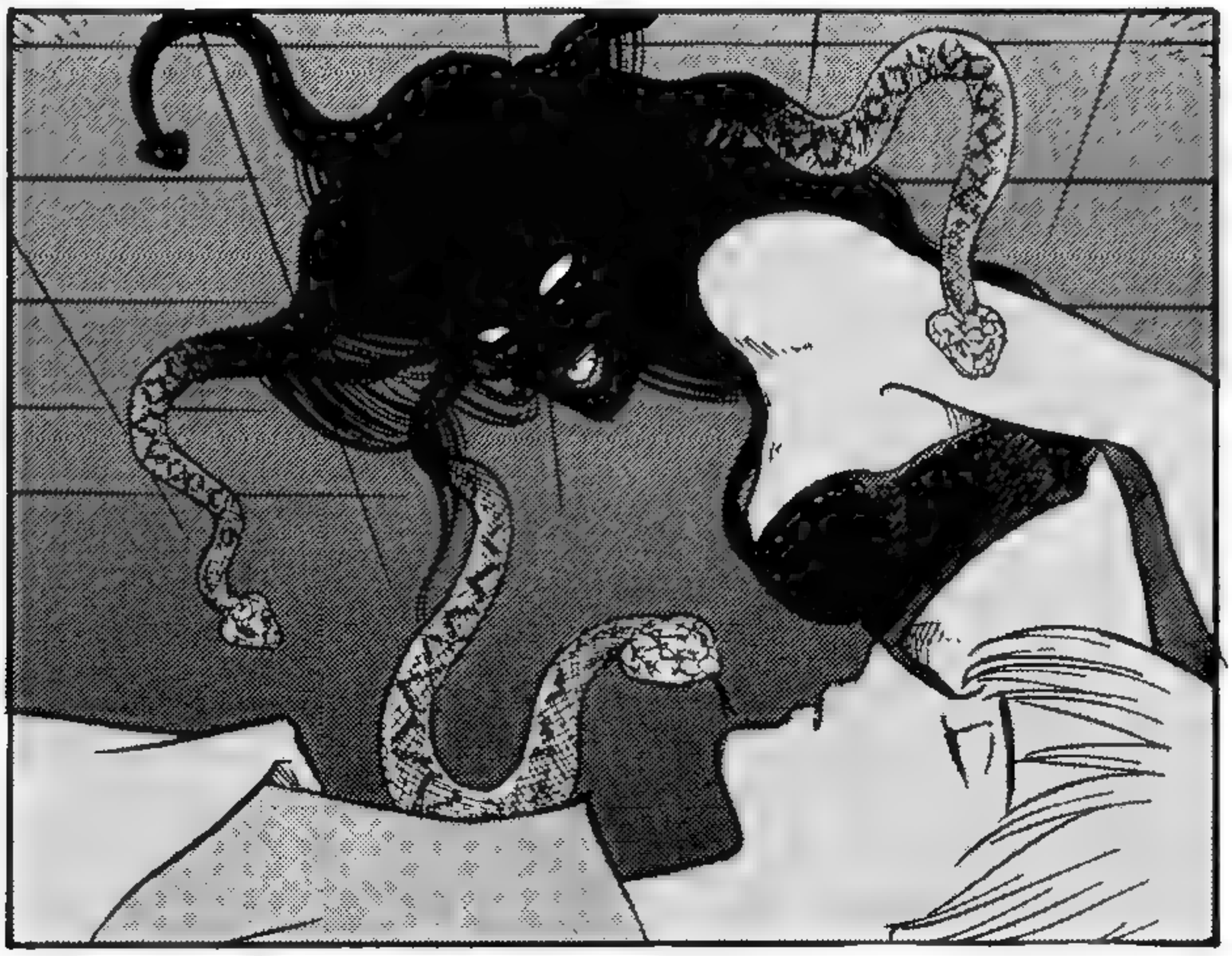
カチャリ

Grrk!

!!







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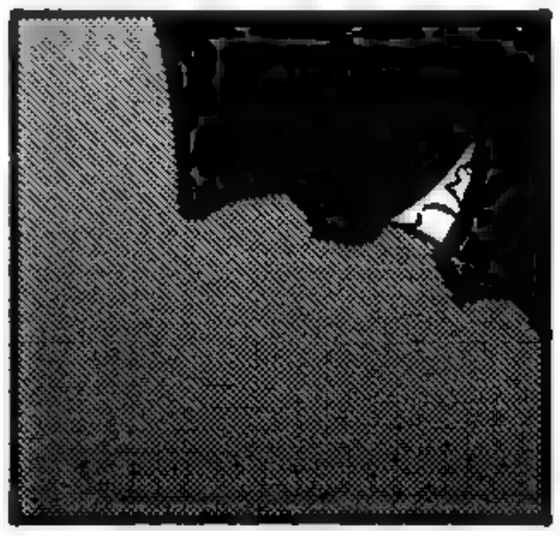


...ALL SEEM TO CENTER ON MARIKO.

THIS STRING OF EVENTS...

HOW CRUEL CAN YOU GET? WHAT IF THIS TREE WASN'T HERE???

rustle rustle

krak!

ガサゴソ

THEN THE MURDER... ...AND NOW THIS CRAZINESS.

IT STARTED WITH HER ROOM GET-TING TORN APART.

...TO PROTECT THE HELP-LESS WOMAN IN THAT HOSPITAL BED.

AT A TIME LIKE THIS, IT'S UP TO A MAN LIKE ME...

EVEN SO, SHE KEPT MY EGO INTACT BY MAKING ME OUT TO BE THE BETTER IN FRONT OF THE GUYS...

LIKE I SHOULD TALK...

...BUT MS. MARIKO IS SO MUCH STRONGER THAN ME!

...I WOULD DIE!

FOR HER...

HMN?

-> SIGH <-

...IN MARIKO'S ROOM--

JUST NOW...

MAYBE IT'S JUST MY IMAGIN-ATION.

THANKS TO YOU, MY STARDOM HAS BEEN BROKEN.

MARIKO KUROSAWA.

YOU TOOK MY PRIDE.

MY DREAMS.

WITH YOUR YOUTH...

HATEFUL.

I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE TAKEN FROM ME!

I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU.

YOU, WHO USED TO BE MY UNDERSTUDY...

HATEFUL LITTLE GIRL!

WHAT YOU'VE TAKEN FROM ME, I'LL NOW TAKE FROM YOU!

SCREECH
WH--?!
?!

FUNNY I SHOULD CATCH A CREATURE LIKE YOU SLITHERING AROUND HERE.

I'M MARIKO'S BR--

ME?

WHO ARE YOU?

RIGHT NOW, I'M A DEMON FROM HELL.

NO.

HER BEING RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL WAS SPLASHED ALL OVER THE NEWS AS A BREAKING STORY.

IT'S A GOOD THING MARIKO'S A HOLLYWOOD DARLING.

...I'M YOUR BROTHER!

AND AS THAT DEMON...

HMN? WHAT WAS THAT?

krak

ONLY SAW SHADOWS, BUT I'D SWEAR THEY WERE BY MARIKO'S-- OH, NO...

MARIKO!

ドコ

ナイ

BROTHER?

DON'T BE ABSURD!

I HAVE NO SIBLINGS!

wrap

whirl

twirl

WHAT ARE YOU?!

WHY DO YOU INTER-FERE?

THAT MUST BE IT. THIS WOMAN'S GOTTEN MIXED-UP WITH PSYCHOPLASM...

!

WHAT AM I?

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL MARIKO?

WHAT AM I? *WHAT* ABOUT YOURSELF?

I'M ***ELLIS BENNET.***

HOLLYWOOD'S TOP FEMALE ACTION STAR.

THAT'S ***WHAT*** I AM.

CAN'T YOU JUST LOOK AT MY FACE AND TELL *WHAT* I AM?

SORRY FOR NOT RECOGNIZING YOU SOONER...

***...SNAKES FOR HAIR AND ALL...***

ELLIS...? I REMEMBER YOU FROM SEVEN YEARS AGO. JUST STARTING TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF.

SO GIRLS LIKE MARIKO...

BUT THIS BEAUTY IS *ETERNAL*, YOU SEE?

HEH, HEH, HEH. IT'S TRUE. MY BEAUTY NOW ISN'T QUITE THAT WHICH I WAS BORN WITH.

*...I'LL NEVER LOSE TO THE LIKES OF HER AGAIN!*

*...LITTLE GIRLS LIKE MARIKO...*

THERE MIGHT NOT BE ANY WAY TO HELP HER...

SHE'S CRAZY.

...HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO THIS CRAZY, SCREWED-UP MONSTER...

狂った魔物だ

THIS CRAZY, SCREWED-UP WORLD...

狂った世界が生み出した

LET ME TEACH YOU THIS LESSON.

AS YOUR BROTHER.

VERY WELL.

CROSS PATHS TO KILL ONE AN-OTHER?

...ARE DESTINED TO CROSS PATHS, ONLY TO KILL THE OTHER!

HOW SIBLINGS BORN IN HELL...

THIS LOOKS TO BE AMUSING.

HERE. LET ME GO AHEAD AND *KILL YOU!*

I WON'T LET YOU STAND IN MY WAY.

...I WON'T LET *ANYONE* STAND IN MY WAY!

FROM CLAIMING THE REWARDS I SO RICHLY DESERVE...

THEN THERE'S NO CHOICE...

...SAVE TO TEACH YOU THIS ONE LESSON, HERE AND NOW...

?!

...ALL IN A SINGLE SHOT.

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

TEARS?

"魔界物質(サイコプラズム)に支配(しはい)された人間(にんげん)だけの人間(にんげん)は死(し)ねば元(もと)の姿(すがた)に"

"だから言(い)ったろ"

...ANYONE GET... ...IN... ...MY... ...WAY.

WON'T LET ANYONE...

...15 YEARS AGO, I STARTED FROM THE BOTTOM.

15 YEARS AGO...

...IF IT WAS FOR THE PROMOTION, I'D USE THE FACT THAT I WAS A "WOMAN" AS A WEAPON. FOR FAME, I'D DO ANYTHING...

I PUT THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE TOWARDS THE JOB. THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE TO GET AHEAD...

...IT TOOK 15 LONG YEARS TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.

...MONEY, WIT AND POWER... ...EVEN PHYSICAL STRENGTH...

"OUT OF THE WAY, GRANDMA," IS WHAT THEY TOLD ME.

I'M NO LONGER "CUTE"? THAT'S BECAUSE IT TOOK 15 YEARS...JUST TO GET THIS FAR.

AND IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, THIS LITTLE GIRL TAKES MY PLACE.

IT MUST BE A JOKE!

WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE?!

A CRUEL, CRUEL JOKE!

I WON'T LET YOU GET IN MY WAY.

nrgh

...CAN'T FOCUS!

CAN'T...

DAMN IT!

...ANYONE GET IN MY WAY!

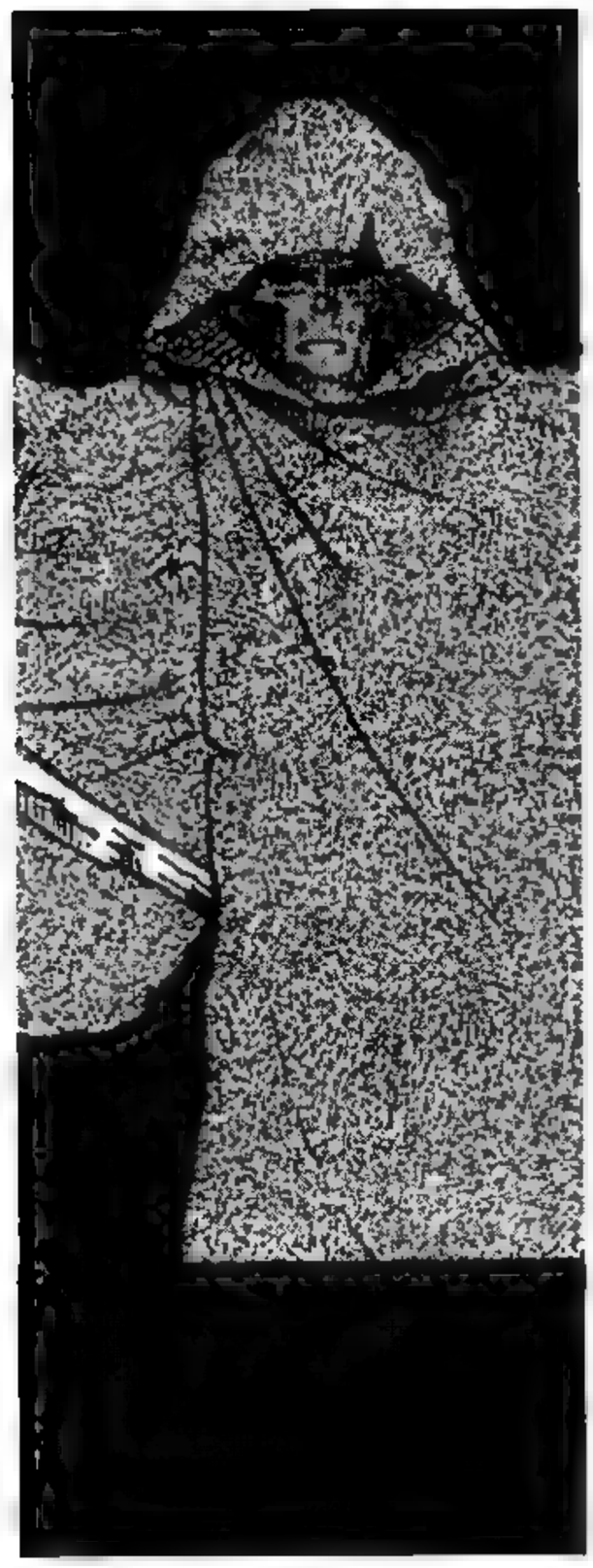
I WON'T LET...

AAAGH!

SHIT.

MY...

...ARM?



# EPISODE.12 CURTAIN-FALLS ―終幕―

WHOOD!

shing

shing

shing

shing

GNRR...

twist!

THE WOUND. CAUTER-IZED.

shrip!

!

THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS.

I GET IT! YOU'RE TAPPING INTO MY FIRST AID KNOWLEDGE!

NICE!

BUT IT SEEMS EVEN A ONE-ARMED GIMP GETS NO RETAINER IN THIS FIGHT.

ban!

MARIKO-SAN!

ガッ ガッ ガッ

ガッ

キュキュ!!

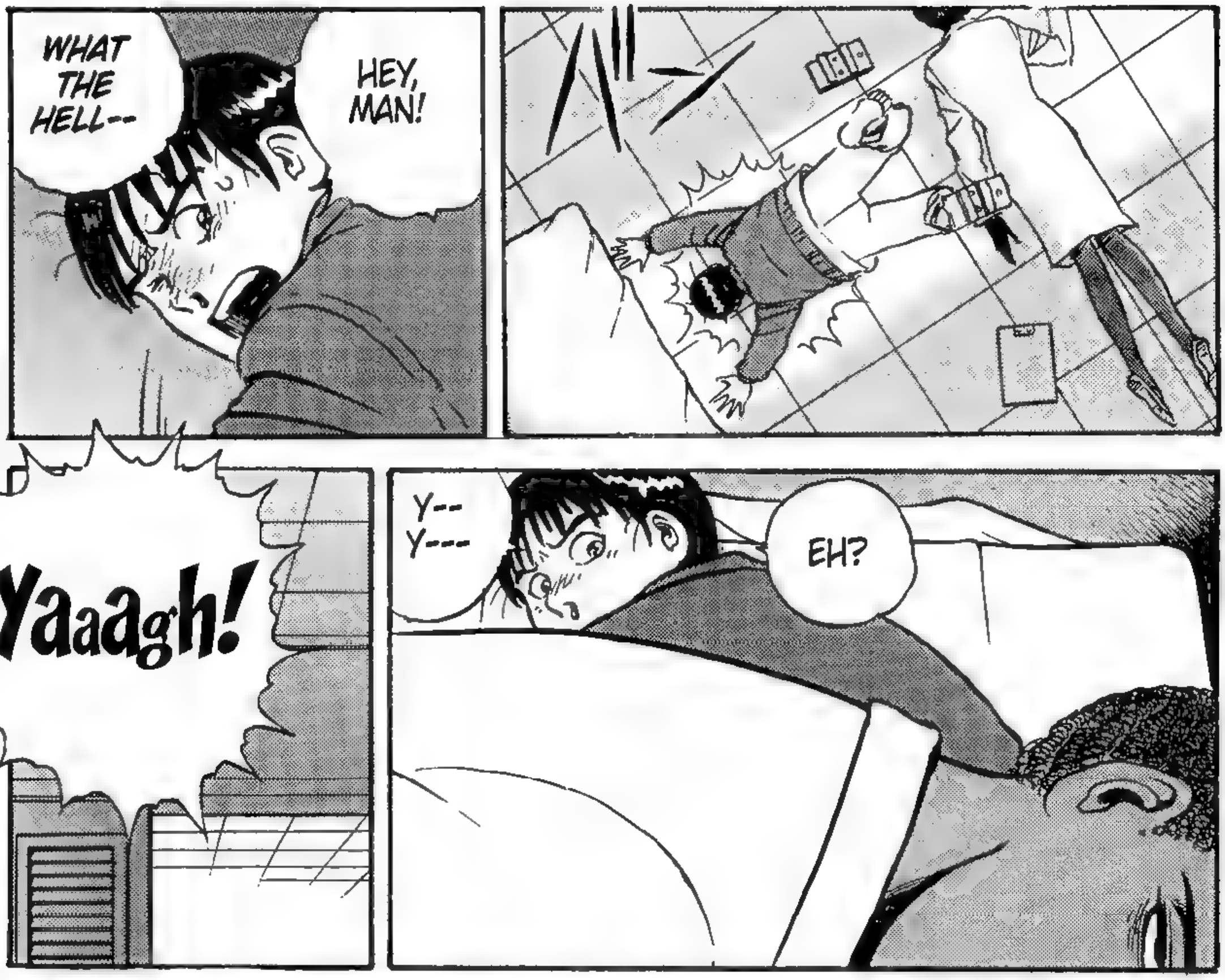
huff

puff

...KOOO!

MARI...

M--


WHAT THE HELL--
HEY, MAN!
Yaaagh!
Y--
Y---
EH?

NOW
DIE.

RNGH!

Shrak!
KATANG!
ドカァッ
GREAT.

UNH...

NEITHER YOU, NOR ANYONE ELSE WILL GET IN MY WAY.

I'VE GIVEN THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE TO GET MY FAME.

YOU WILL NOT GET IN MY WAY...

NOT LIKE THIS. *NOT EVER!*

I WILL NOT BE DENIED.

*...I'LL KILL!*

*THOSE WHO GET IN THE WAY...*

?

"AND THE HEROINE MOVES IN TO FINISH HER FALLEN OPPONENT, BUT PAUSES FOR A BRIEF MOMENT..."

THE ASSASSIN'S DAGGER FINDS ITS MARK, SINKING INTO KATHY'S CHEST...

KATHY TURNS TO FACE THE TRUE ASSAILANT, LEAPING AT THEM WITH A SCREAM.

HELL OF A WAY TO END A CAREER, ELLIS. CAN'T SAY THIS LOOKS LIKE A HEROINE-TYPE SCENE, EITHER.

...KATHY, PLAYED BY ELLIS BENNET, PLUMMETS WITH THE MURDERER INTO A DRY RAVINE.

...THE AUDIENCE WAS QUITE UNAWARE OF WHO THE TRUE FORCE IN THIS PICTURE WAS.

THE SCROLLING CREDITS HEARALDED A NEW STAR...

...MARIKO KUROSAWA...

AND WHO MIGHT *YOU* BE?

...KNOWING EVEN YOUR FELLOW ACTORS DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOUR PART.

IT MUST HAVE CRUSHED YOU...

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT *SCRIPT* FROM?

WHO THE *HELL* ARE YOU?

CH--

*CHEVEYO!*

?!

MARIKO'S LITTLE HOSPITAL TRIP WAS IN THE SCRIPT, TOO.

I'M A BIT OF A FILM BUFF MYSELF.

DID YOU COME TO GET IN MY WAY AS WELL?

PHH. YOU ONE OF HIS FRIENDS?

I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!

NOBODY...

...NOBODY WILL STAND IN MY WAY!

GET OFF YOUR ASS AND FINISH THIS *CRAZY WOMAN.*

YOU STILL SITTING AROUND, SAMURAI KID?

.....

!!

HNH?

...ISN'T SHE JUST A VICTIM OF THE PSYCHO-PLASM'S TOUCH?

BUT...

SHE'S STILL HUMAN, RIGHT?

I'M AFRAID NOT.

...SHE'S GIVEN HERSELF COMPLETELY OVER ***TO*** IT!

SHE'S NOT SIMPLY GRAZED BY PSYCHO-PLASM...

IN PLACE OF *FAME*, SHE NOW WRAPS HERSELF IN *SERPENTS*.

THE WOMAN WHO ONCE WAS IS NO MORE.

?!

*WHAT?*

SHE'S ALREADY DEAD.

SHE'S ALREADY...

*...DEAD?*

*HiSssss!*

LOOK CAREFULLY, BOY! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE A *CORPSE* WHEN YOU SEE ONE?!

NOT IF YOU PLAN TO KEEP YOUR SISTER SAFE.

NOT IF YOU PLAN TO LAST LONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT *MALEBOLGIA.*

DON'T HOLD BACK.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

BECAUSE EVEN I...

ゲェェェ

...BEYOND MY SELF I'M WILLING TO FIGHT FOR.

...I HAVE A REASON BEYOND MY OWN LIFE...

MY REASON TO FIGHT ON.

Gugyaaa!

...BASTARD!

YOU...

FROM THE MOMENT THE DEVIL TOOK OUR SOULS.

WE WERE DESTINED TO KILL ONE ANOTHER.

DIFFER-
ENCE IS...

...WILL
KILL...

...KILL!!!

KILLAU

I
DON'T
SERVE
YOUR
MASTER!

AaaaGh!

NOT THE FACE!

NO!

...I'M A WOMAN...

...BE-CAUSE...

...AM I GOING TO DIE?

LIKE THIS?

NO!

AM I...

mff

ung

hunh

MY TIME... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO *START* FROM NOW...

I'VE ONLY GOTTEN ONE STARRING ROLE...

NO... IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS. ALL MY WORK.

NOOO!

...YOU'RE BOUND TO GET BURNED.

DO A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL...

I'VE PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE TO MAKE THAT DREAM REAL.

HELP ME!

IT'S BEEN MY CHILD-HOOD DREAM TO BE A HOLLYWOOD STAR!

INDEED.

IF YOU WANTED TO BE A STAR, WHY DIDN'T YOU? WHY TRY TO KILL MARIKO?

THIS IS ALL YOUR OWN FAULT.

...THE TERMS OF MY CONTRACT. FOR ETERNAL YOUTH...

huff

huff

THAT... ...THAT WAS THE DEAL...

...PLEASE...

...HELP ME...

...YOU WERE MANIPULATED BY MALE-BOLGIA, TOO...

SO YOU...

LETTING HER GO IS FOR HER OWN GOOD.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU? SHE'S A WALKING CORPSE. NOTHING MORE.

THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

CHEVEYO--

.....

*"EYES OF THE WILD-CATS."*

IT WAS MY FIRST TASTE OF SUCCESS.

SEVEN YEARS AGO?

SEVEN YEARS AGO. IT WAS YOUR FIRST STARRING ROLE.

I RE-MEMBER SEEING YOUR MOVIE.

THAT'S HOW BRILLIANT YOU WERE.

YES. IT'S AS MEMORABLE TO ME TODAY AS IT WAS THE DAY I SAW IT.

BOTH AS AN ACTRESS AS WELL AS A TRUE ACTION STAR. YOU WERE THE REAL DEAL...

MY KARATE TRAINING GAVE ME A TRUE INSIGHT TO YOUR SKILLS.

YOU'RE FORTUNATE.

YOU...

THANK YOU.

HNH...

BUT YOU HOLLYWOOD STARS...

...YOU LIVE FOREVER...

...ON FILM...

ONE LUCKY SHOT... ONE MISSED HIT... I *DIE*, MY MEMORY FADES INTO NOTHING.

...BUT IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE TOUCHED BY THOSE FILMS.

...AND NOT JUST THERE...

...FOREVER.

YOUR BEAUTY IMMORTAL-IZED...

AT LEAST THIS ONE TIME.

CAN'T HELP BUT THINK HEAVEN'S GATES OPENED UP FOR HER.

A BRILLIANT, LIVING EULOGY.

FOR HIS AMUSEMENT. NOTHING MORE.

*MALE-BOLGIA'S DOING?*

ELLIS' FATE--

THIS...

...TOO?!

...MALEBOLGIA WIELDS THOSE AS HIS TOOLS TO SCREW AROUND WITH THEIR MINDS AND GIVE HIM A BELLY LAUGH.

A STRONG SPIRIT AND SENSE OF PRIDE LIKE HER'S...

I CAN HEAR PEOPLE COMING.

BEST AVOID A COMMOTION AND RETREAT INTO THE NIGHT.

HOLLYWOOD'S FULL OF THE RICH AND THE INFLUENTIAL. THEY DON'T WANT NEWS LIKE THIS TO SCARE THEM OFF.

Los Angeles Ti

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017

COLUMN ONE

Looking for a 'Middle Way'

WELL, AT LEAST THE PRESS IS COOPERATING FOR THE MOMENT ABOUT THIS NASTY BUSINESS.

IF SHE FINDS OUT MS. BENNET WAS KILLED AFTER VISITING HER... THE SHOCK WOULD BE TOO MUCH, I THINK.

OF COURSE, SIR. I'M HOPEFUL THIS NEWS DOESN'T SOMEHOW GET TO MARIKO INSIDE THE HOSPITAL.

FORGIVE US FOR YOUR DETENTION, BUT WE'D ASK YOU DON'T SHARE WHAT YOU SAW IN FROM THE GARDEN WITH ANYONE.

BUT YOU DID SEE SOMETHING, RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND AN EXPLANATION FOR IT ALL. WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS, I'M AFRAID.

I'M CONFIDENT WHAT I SAW IS WHAT I SAW...

...AND YET, I CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE IT MYSELF.

...OUTSIDE THE BROKEN HOSPITAL WINDOW...

YES. SHORTLY BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL...

?!

Snap--

Crunch--

...I THINK I SAW...

WH-
WH--

SHING!

WHAT IS THAT?!

AAA-- WHA-WHA--

...WEARS A *RED CAPE* AND *MONO-TONE* MASK.

***CRAZY?***

SOMEONE USING *CHAIN-LIKE DEVICES* TO EASILY LEAP OVER *THREE METERS* AND CLEAR AN *IRON-RAIL FENCE...*

KIND OF CRAZY, HUH?

THAT'S WHAT I SAW.

WELL, IF YOU'RE THAT CERTAIN, THEN THE PATTERN IS BECOMING CLEAR.

HMMMN. I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.

I STAND BY IT, SIR.

*...AND THIS IS THE SAME M.O. AS THE* ***SERIAL KILLER!***

EVERYTHING REVOLVES AROUND *MARIKO KUROSAWA...*

Times

Sunday Final

**Actress hit-and-run accident !!**

Ellis Bennett during the activity died as an expert's action actress in the hospital of Los Angeles city. It is said that had th

ESS MUR

Doctor Carter who was the authority of a study of Egyp was killed. A criminal breaks into the doctor house by the mask an the figure of the mantl and kills a doctor in th study It ran away from

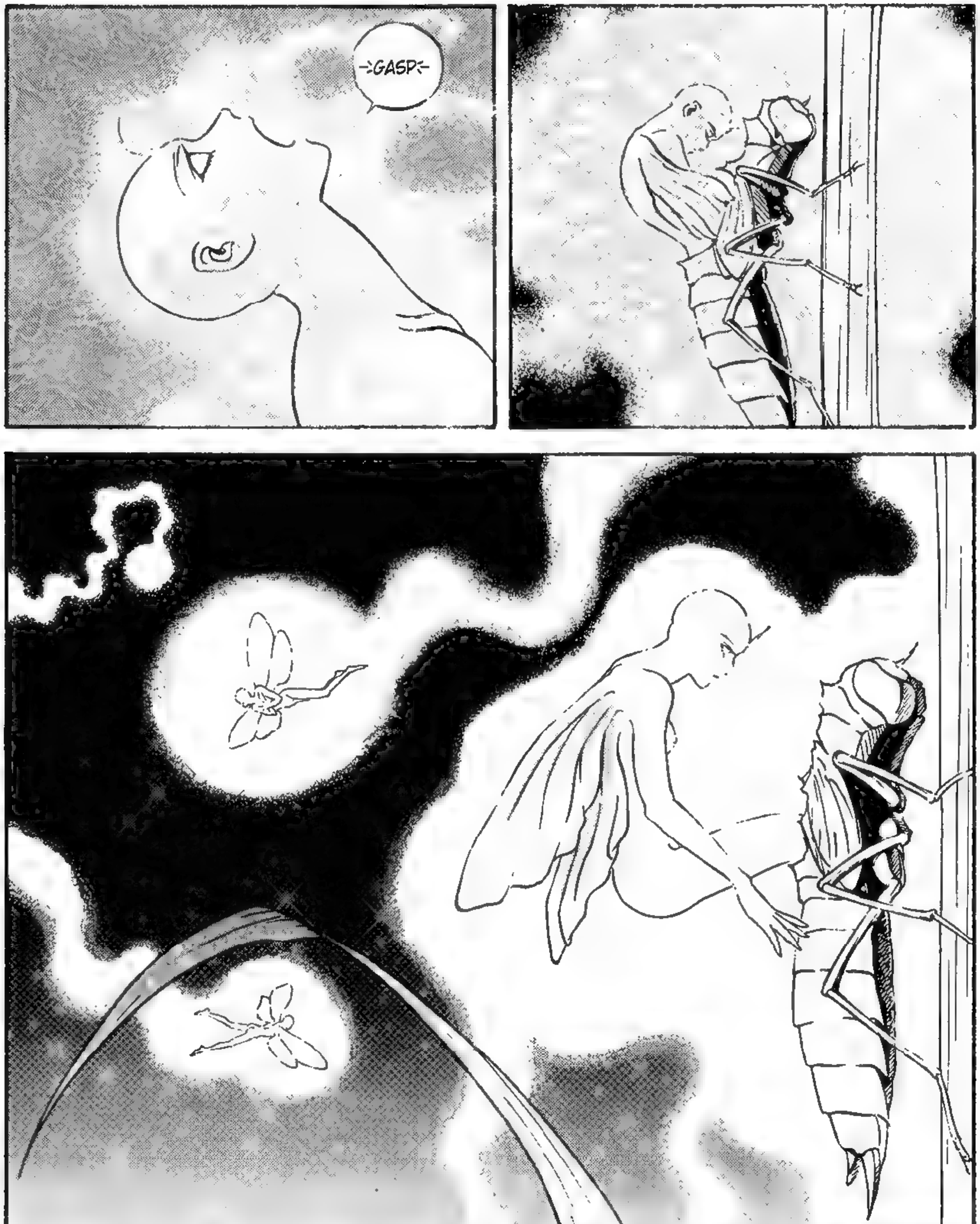
# EPISODE.13 THE END OF THE CENTURY -世紀末-

clickety

clack

katonk

SWOOOOSH


-GASP-

ELLIS...

...IF SHE HADN'T COME TO VISIT...

I KNOW... SORRY, CHRIS...

...BUT CAN YOU LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A WHILE?

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. YOU KNOW--

I UNDER-STAND.

.....

!

MARIKO. IS SHE--

CHRIS.

TOSHIO!

OHHH. I GET IT. YOU'RE THE BODY-GUARD.

HMMN?

I SEE.

THE BEST THING FOR HER RIGHT NOW IS SOME TIME TO HERSELF, I THINK.

SINCE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED, THE OLD MAN ASKED ME IF I COULD STICK AROUND.

EHM, UHM... WELL, I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

WELL, EVEN IF I HAD TO COME HERE EVERY DAY, IT'S A HOUSE I DON'T FEEL OUT OF PLACE IN...

...I'M CERTAIN THE STUDIO HEADS WILL ALSO BE GLAD YOU'RE HERE FOR HER. JUST IN CASE.

HE'S VERY WISE. GIVEN ALL THAT'S HAPPENED, AND ALL THE PERSONAL DANGER SHE'S BEEN IN...

EVEN IF JUST IN SPIRIT, I WOULDN'T MIND AT ALL BEING HER BODYGUARD IS ALL I MEANT.

EH? UHM, NO. I MEAN--

MARIKO'S LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE WILLING TO SHOW-UP TO HIS POST, DAY AFTER DAY!

BE CAREFUL, TOSHIO.

ALL JOKING ASIDE--

OF COURSE.

EVEN WITH THE POLICE OUTSIDE...

THIS IS NO GAME.

THIS *HOMICIDAL MANIAC* PLAINLY DOESN'T INTEND TO STOP UNTIL HE'S ACHIEVED WHATEVER SICK PLANS HE'S SET OUT TO DO.

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN ABLE TO GET WITHIN A HAIR'S BREATH AWAY FROM MARIKO. HE'S KILLED TWO ALREADY.

YES MA'AM!

Y--

BOSS JUST CALLED.

...RELIGIOUS FAITHFUL CONTINUE TO WARN OF DOOM...

FM 10: 13

...AS UNUSUAL CASES OF WORLDWIDE UNREST CONTINUE TO SPRING UP.

EXPERT?

ELLIS BENNET. THEY'D BROUGHT IN A FORENSIC EXPERT TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE CORONER'S REPORT.

WHY THE PALE FACE?

WHAT IS IT?

MEANING, SHE WAS *DEAD*, AT THE VERY LEAST, FROM THE *NIGHT BEFORE LAST!*

ACCORDING TO THE PRO, BENNET'S TIME OF DEATH WASN'T LAST NIGHT, LIKE WE'D THOUGHT. IT WAS AT LEAST *24-HOURS BEFORE.*

THE LABS HAVE RUN TEST AFTER TEST AFTER TEST. THE RESULTS ARE THE SAME, EVERY TIME...

SHE WAS SEEN AT WORK THE DAY *AFTER* SHE SUP-POSEDLY *DIED!*

WH-- WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?

...HAVE BEEN FOUND ABOVE-GROUND OVER A MILE AWAY FROM THEIR BURIAL SITE...

...BODIES OF THE DECEASED WHICH WERE LAID TO REST THREE DAYS AGO...

FM 1013

?!

THIS IS *CRAZY!*

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

...TO THIS GODDAMN WORLD?!

*WHAT IN BLOODY HELL IS HAPPENING...*

THE OVERLAPPING OF THE TWO REALITIES...

HEH, HEH, HEH. I'D GUESS WE'RE RIGHT ABOUT LIKE THIS?

CHAOS!

THE FUN'S ABOUT TO START!

Gaa-ha-ha!!

I CAN ALREADY HEAR THE SHRIEKS OF TERROR AND MAYHEM!

OH, HAPPY DAYS ARE A'COMIN'!

*FLESH* WILL MEET *PSYCHO-PLASM* AND BE CHANGED AND TRANS-FORMED. MANKIND WILL FIND THEIR LITTLE WORLD CHANGED FOREVER!

HEEEEEEY, BUDDY!

-GAH?!-

AND YOUR CACKLING ASS WILL FIND A PRETTY PERCH FROM WHICH TO WATCH ALL THIS, I TAKE IT?

WHOOOA! I SEE YOUR *RIGHT ARM'S* COMPLETELY *REGENERATED* ITSELF!

WHATTAYA THINK YOU'RE DOING SNEAKING UP ON ME LIKE THAT?

*I-- IT'S LIKE-- YOU SEE--*

...HOW IS IT *YOU'D* KNOW ABOUT *MY* ARM?

TELL ME...

RIGHT ARM?

*?!*

*CRAP!*

SLIPPED UP!

DELIGHT-ING IN THE SU-FFERING OF OTHERS?

ANOTH-ER SICK LITTLE PAST-TIME?

YES. I WAS WORRIED FOR MY PARTNER AND DECIDED TO SHADOW YOU JUST A BIT LAST NIGHT.

THAT'S IT!

I WAS WORRIED--

CAREFUL.

IF I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, I'D HAVE PINCH-HIT FOR YOU, NO QUES-TION!

*TALK TO THE HAND!* OF COURSE NOT! NOT WHEN IT COMES TO MY PART-NER!

THAT'S THE PATH TO THE LITTLE MONSTERS SELF-SERVING *HUMANS* BECOME.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BURN-UP WHAT LITTLE CREDIBILITY YOU'VE GOT LEFT, VIOLATOR!

THERE ARE MANY WHO FALL INTO THAT LACK OF TRUST AND CREDIBILITY, WITHOUT A DOUBT.

"LITTLE MONSTERS HUMANS BECOME..."

*SHADDUP!* DON'T BE OPENING YOUR MOUTH WHERE IT'S NOT INVITED!

*BEE?*

IT'S BEEN AWHILE!

*I WILL NOT HAVE TWO, IMPUDENT LITTLE CHATTERBOXES MOCKING THE TOP OF THE PHLEBIAC CHAIN!*

*QUIET! QUIET! QUIET! QUIET!*

IT WAS WHEN I WAS BUT A WEE *400 YEARS OLD*. WELL BEFORE I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY.

HEH. YOU WANT TO TALK SMACK? LIKEN ME TO YOU SORRY HUMANS? THEN LET ME TELL YOU A STORY. A VERY FUN, ENLIGHTENING STORY. WE'LL SEE WHO THE *REAL* FOOLS ARE!

AT MALEBOLGIA'S COMMAND, I'D INFILTRATED THE ROYAL PALACE...

オレあメルボージャの言い付けで欧州のある王宮に潜り込んだ

...IN MY CLOWN GUISE!

OF COURSE...

...AND I HAD MYSELF THE ATTENTIONS OF THE QUEEN HERSELF.

AS HER FAVORITE "FOOL," OF COURSE. BUT WHO WAS THE REAL FOOL, TO FOOL?

A FEW KEY ASSISTS WITH THE RIGHT CROWD...

BUT HER HIGHNESS TOOK A SHINING TO HIM, AND INVITED HIM BACK OFTEN TO READ THE STARS AND FORETELL OF THINGS TO COME. A BIT OF A MYSTIC-FREAK, SHE WAS...

...IF SHE ONLY KNEW 'BOUT ME, HEH, HEH!

THEN ONE FINE DAY A YOUNG ASTROLOGER CAME TO COURT. EVEN BACK THEN, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE TURKS WERE FAKES, JUST LIKE TO-DAY.

HE TELLS ME TO HAVE THIS YOUNG BUCK WRITE A BOOK, OF ALL THINGS.

A BOOK CONSISTING OF 100 POEMS AND CURIOS GLEANED FROM THE STARS.

ANYWAY, OL' MALE-BOLGIA SENDS AN ODDBALL ORDER DOWN THE PIKE.

EVENTUALLY, THE YOUNG ASTROLOGER AGREED TO WRITING THIS TOME OF WHAT EVEN I CONSIDERED UTTER NONSENSE.

HELL. MY BRAIN COULDN'T FATHOM WHY THE BIG MAN WANTED THIS BOOK. I WAS WORKING TO GET IN ON HIS GOOD SIDE, SO I DID WHAT I WAS TOLD...AND SO DID MR. STAR READER.

SURE, IT TOOK SOME CONVIN-CING. BUT IF NOTHING ELSE, I'M CON-VINCING!

HE OF HELL WITH THE *GHETTO BOOTY* PLAYED THIS ONE SO WELL, I HAD NO IDEA WHAT HE WAS UP TO.

HYA-HA-HA...

THAT TRICKY LITTLE S.O.B.

DON'T YOU HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT? YOU WERE BORN IN JAPAN, RIGHT?

THE REST IS HISTORY?

?

450 YEARS LATER... ...THE REST IS HISTORY!

..."YOUR PEOPLE" TOTALLY DUG THIS GUY! HE WENT BY, *MICHEL NOSTRADAMUS!*

I SUPPOSE IT WAS ASKING TOO MUCH TO HAVE A KNOWLEDGE PUDGE LIKE YOU GET THIS ON THEIR OWN...

WHAT'S AN OLD TALE FROM EUROPE HAVE TO DO WITH MY BEING BORN IN JAPAN?

SOME DOOFBALL MIS-TRANSLATED THESE POEMS...

...COULDN'T READ "OLD" FRENCH, APPARENTLY.

AFTER SEVERAL BAD ERRORS IN THE MOVING OF THE TOME INTO OTHER LAN-GUAGES, 100 "STORIES" SOME-HOW BECAME "CENTURIES" WORTH OF PROPHECY!

OF COURSE, THE PROPER LATIN PRONOUNCIATION WOULD PUT IT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF...

...MIKHAEL NOSTRADAMUS!

ARE YOU REALLY EVEN JAPANESE?

YOU TEST ME, BOY.

EVEN IF WE LEFT WHEN I TURNED FIVE.

YEP.

NOSTRIL WHO--?

THE "GROUPIE EFFECT" THIS STORYWRITER HAD ON YOU HUMANS THROUGH-OUT HISTORY HAS CAUSED WORRY AND STRIFE OF UNTOLD PRO-PORTIONS!

OF ALL THE DUMB-DUMB NATIONS, *JAPAN* TOOK THE PRIZE AS THE *DUMBEST.*

DON'T MAKE ME WASTE THIS PERFECTLY GOOD STORY, BOY. KEEP-UP.

...THEY SAW THE MONEY POTENTIAL IN THESE WRITINGS AND DELIBERATELY STARTED TO NOT ONLY MISLEAD WITH LOUSY TRANSLATIONS. OH, NO. THEY OUTRIGHT STARTED TO ADD LINES, STORIES AND PASSAGES OF THEIR OWN!

YOU SEE... "OLD" FRENCH TRANSLATION FLUBS WERE INNOCENT MISTAKES. THOSE WHO CLAIMED TO BE EXPERT ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND LINGUISTS...

AND WITH THE ADVENT OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS, BIG MEDIA AND "ENTERPRISE" STYLED JOURNALISM, THE CRAFTY SONS'O'BITCHES SAW TO IT THAT EVERYONE COULD MAKE A FAST BUCK BY PITCHING THEIR VERSION OF EVENTS AS "THE NEW RELIGION." CULTS AND OTHER ENTITIES SPRUNG UP EVERYWHERE. A SIMPLE BOOK OF POEMS BECAME A GLOBAL BEST-SELLER!

...WENT AHEAD AND BLAZED THE WAY FOR SCHEISTERS THE WORLD OVER FOR AGES YET TO COME. THIS WAS A CASH COW OF FEW EQUALS.

PROFITEERS TO THE LAST, THEY TOOK THE SHAFT TO THE ALREADY SHAFTED BOOK AND, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS LOOKING FOR THE ORIGINAL TOME...

AND AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, IT'S US HELLIONS' JOBS TO GIVE YOU HUMANS WHAT YOU WANT!

GOOFY HUMANS BELIEVE TO THIS DAY THAT A FEW BUCKS EVERY FEW WEEKS CAN SAVE THEIR SOULS FROM THE IMPENDING DOOMS FORETOLD IN THAT CUTE LITTLE NUMBER.

*DOING EXACTLY WHAT A* ***CLOWN*** *DOES!*

IN SHORT--

WHATTAYA SAY?! IS THAT A GREAT TALE OR WHAT, BOYO?

...THIS COUNTRY CALLED JAPAN BECAME QUITE THE HOT SPOT FOR US TYPES FROM THE PLACE DOWN-STAIRS!

AS THE 21ST CENTURY KICKED INTO HIGH GEAR, AS UNCER-TAINTY ROLLED ACROSS THE GLOBE...

...THAT MAY HAVE BEEN IT...

?

GIVING ANYTHING FOR MONEY...

MAN. YOU'RE NO FUN AT ALL... I WAS EXPECTING SOME BAWLING... OR AT LEAST A LITTLE FLARE-UP.

EH? IS THAT ALL I GET OUTTA YOU?

IT'S INDEFENSIBLE TO GIVE AWAY ONE'S *PRIDE* FOR A FEW *COINS* OF SILVER.

MY PARENTS WOULD NOT HAVE STOOD FOR A SELL-AT-WILL CULTURE. THAT MUST'VE BEEN THEIR REASON FOR LEAVING.

CAN'T DENY IT.

THAT ZOMBIE MUST REALLY BE MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON YOU.

PRIDE?

WHAT'S *THAT* MEAN?

THEN YOU'D BEST GET BACK TO STUDYING.

IS THAT SO?

CHEVEYO'S GIVEN ME MUCH, BUT I'VE SO MUCH MORE TO LEARN FROM HIM.

...IS THAT HE'S ALMOST OUT OF TIME.

WHAT THAT MEANS...

WAIT- UP, BEE!

?!

IT'S THEIR WAY TO DROP A KNOWLEDGE NUKE ON YOU LIKE THAT AND BOLT. GIVES'EM THE GIGGLES.

HER FAMILY AND MINE, THE PHLEBIACS...

...WE GO BACK A LONG WAYS.

WHAT'D SHE MEAN, "OUT OF TIME?"

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

...TIME?

OUT OF...

0:0:8:1

EASY, CHEVEYO. YOUR DEPLETION OF PSYCHOPLASM LATELY IS DANGEROUS.

PLENTY FOR WHAT'S LEFT TO BE DONE!

0:0:8:1, EH?

DON'T WORRY.

I DON'T PLAN TO DIE JUST YET.

...YOU'RE QUITE THE WORRY WART OVER THESE SMALL MATTERS.

FOR BEING SUCH A BIG LUG...

I'M AFRAID I'M NOT FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THIS MOMENT IN TIME.

THE MERGING OF REALITIES IS ALREADY CAUSING DISTORTIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

...I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS THING THROUGH TO ITS HAPPY CONCLUSION, DON'T I?

BESIDES...

...ALWAYS SPEAKING IN RIDDLES.

IT'S GETTING ON MY NERVES!

THAT DAMNED BEE...

Whack!

Bok!

Ungh!

BIG AS YOU ARE! OLD AS YOU ARE! YOU STILL TALKING JACK-ASININE-- AAGH!

WHAT THE HELL IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?

GET IT TOGETHER, MAN!

U.F.O.s... ...CREATURES OF THE NIGHT... ...IDIOTIC PROPHECIES!

BUT I'M TELLING YOU... I SAW THEM.

EVER SINCE OUR YOUTH...

A LITTLE CHUBSTER WITH AN OVER-ACTIVE IMAGIN-ATION.

SEVEN YEARS AGO, I REMEMBER SOMEONE WHO SPOKE OF THESE THINGS.

LIKE THE VIOLATOR WAS SAY-ING... ...SEEMS EVEN STREET GANGS AREN'T IMMUNE TO THIS MERGING.

U.F.O.s AND MONSTERS RUNNING AMOK. SOUNDS FAMILIAR.

EVEN IF THAT TEAM WAS A STREET GANG. BUT HE WASN'T CUT FROM THE RIGHT CLOTH FOR THAT.

ALL HE EVER WANTED TO DO WAS TO FIT IN ON A TEAM... ANY TEAM.

チームに入りたいって付きまとってたわりにゃ

口を開けば超能力だの妖精だのってとてもストリートギャングってタイプじゃなかった……

HMN?!

STOP THE DAYDREAMING, TERRY!

TERRY.

TERRY JONES.

WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

BUT...

...I'LL KILL YOU!

CALL ME OUT HERE FOR ANOTHER STORY LIKE THAT...

SLAM!

THE FAIRIES...

...THEY'RE REAL.

...I SAW THEM, I TELL YOU...

THEY'RE REAL.

I KNOW I SAW THEM.

I SAW THEM.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING TO WHAT HE'S SAY-ING... BEARS WATCHING.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A REASON.

I DON'T KNOW WHY I REMEMBERED HIS NAME.

TERRY JONES.

BY THIS STREAM.

THEY WERE RIGHT HERE.

HMMM... MAYBE IT'S LIKE THE BOSS SAID...

I WONDER IF THEY'LL SHOW TONIGHT?

WH--

!

glorb

gloog

glug

glub

AHH... AHHHH--

THAT'S--

?!

EEEEEK!

THE CREATURE FROM BEFORE...

STAY AWAY! GET AWAY FROM ME--

STAY--

TERRY!

HELP

ME-:-

HEL--

-:-GLUP-:-

HELP!

!!

GROAR!

RRRAA!

TERRY!

T--

# EPISODE.14 PROMISE ―約束―

TERRY!

RRRR?

GRRRR

RAH!

HNGH!

GAWRAA!

TERRY--

WAIT!

STOP!

TERRY! I'M A FRIEND!

CH--

DON'T RE-MEMBER, HUH?

GRR

KEN KUROSAWA! FROM THE C-BLOCK DAYS SEVEN YEARS AGO!

IT'S ME! DOUBLE K!

KEN... KURO-SAWA?

G-- K---

K...

YOU REMEM-BER!

SO YOU DID HEAR ME!

!!

KEN LEAVE TERRY ALL ALONE!

...KEN DEAD!

WHOK!

TERRY--

GNRF...

...YOU MOCK ME! YOU MOCK ME!

YOU...

I KILL!

I ORDER YOU TO KILL HIM.

KILL HIM.

?!

TERRY! I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!

I'LL GIVE YOU THE *POWER.*

THAT'S RIGHT. KILL EVERY-ONE AND ANYONE WHO MOCKS YOU.

*...YOU'RE INVINCIBLE!*

WITH THIS *MAGICAL BIT...*

klak!

*THE REAL FUN IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!*

*PREPARE YOURSELF, SPAWN!*

WHAT IS THAT NASTY LITTLE SNOT DEMON?

LET NO ONE CALL YOU A FOOL ANY LONGER!

FOOL-- NO MORE!

F--

WH--

THAAAT'S RIGHT! SHOW HIM YOUR POWER!

ゴオッ

I DON'T WANT TO HARM YOU!

DON'T DO THIS, TERRY!

ハァッ

BELOVED

TERRY...

THIS IS YOUR FATE.

INES-CAPABLE DESTINY.

YOU CAN'T RUN...

...LITTLE CHICKIE CHICK.

I CAN'T BE-LIEVE...

...THAT TERRY WOULD BECOME...

"KARATE KID"...

THAT WORKS, TOO.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT STOOD FOR "KARATE KID"!

IS THAT IT?!

"K.K"... "DOUBLE-K" IS JUST YOUR INITIALS?

THEY ALL THINK I'M A FOOL.

EVERYONE CALLS ME THE LIL' FAT KID.

...PROMISE ME YOU'LL TEACH ME KARATE.

K.K... PLEASE PROMISE ME...

...AND WON'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY.

BLOODY COOL

MY CREW ALL JOINED THE "BLOODY COOL" GANG...

MY HEAD'S NOT SO SMART SO EVEN IN SCHOOL, I CAN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS.

DON'T SAY THAT, K.K.

BELIEVE ME, KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE FROM YOUR "CREW" IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD. RUN WITH IT.

WELL. YOU *ARE* A KID, TERRY.

GET INTO ALL THE TEAMS AND MAKE A WHOLE LOTTA FRIENDS.

FIGURE IF I CAN GET ALL STRONG I CAN SHOW'EM ALL.

U.F.O.S...
...PROPHECIES...

...YOU ACTUALLY TAKE THE TIME TO HEAR ME.

YOU ACTUALLY LISTEN TO MY STORIES.

HNN?

YOU'RE COOL, K.K.

I CAN SEE WHY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU LISTEN.

EVERYONE ELSE JUST BEATS ME UP.

I DON'T PARTIC-ULARLY CARE FOR THEM.

I JUST LISTEN.

...UNDERSTAND.

I...

IF YOU KEEP TALKING MAKE-BELIEVE, YOU CAN EXPECT MORE OF THE SAME.

THOSE PUNKS DO WHAT THEY DO WITH ANY EXCUSE THEY CAN GET.

...BUT...

I DREAM I'M SOME KIND OF SUPER-POWERED GUY. A REAL HERO TYPE...

I'M NOT SMART AND I'M NOT STRONG, SO I CAN'T HELP BUT DAYDREAM.

WELL...

THEN THERE'S NO CHOICE, IS THERE?

IS THAT SO?

...SO...

...SO...

.....

...I SUPPOSE I'LL *HAVE* TO *TEACH YOU KARATE.*

...I GUESS IF I DON'T WANT TO PUT UP WITH ENDLESS STORIES OF NAKED "LITTLE GREY MEN" AND FAIRY TALES...

-GULP-

DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?

YOU'RE NEVER TO JOIN A GANG.

BUT IN RETURN...

YES!

YOU SERIOUS?

K.K...

IT'S MY SISTER'S BIRTH-DAY.

THEN TOMOR-ROW?

YES.

NOT TODAY.

SO WHEN DO WE START?

I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

YOU'RE JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR IT.

I PROMISE.

YOU PROMISE?

...SO A FRIEND FROM YOUR PAST, EH?

I SEE...

TERRY'S NOT THE KIND TO BECOME A MONSTER LIKE THAT!

CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING?!

PUPPETEER?!

...THEN IT MEANS THERE'S A *PUPPETEER* AT WORK. A MALICIOUS LITTLE BUGGER THAT GUIDES THE PSYCHOPLASM'S "READ" OF THE MAN.

IF THE PSYCHOPLASM DIDN'T CREATE THAT WHICH HE BECAME...

THE PSYCHOPLASM COULD HAVE BEEN MANIPULATED BY THE PUPPETEER TO BE WRONGLY REFLECTED IN THE FINAL TRANS-FORMATION.

FROM WHAT YOU JUST TOLD ME, HAVING "POWER" HAS BEEN THE INNERMOST WISH OF YOUR FRIEND.

IT'S NOT JUST TERRY'S FAULT...

...IT'S *MINE*, TOO.

*IT'S NOT JUST THAT!*

BECAUSE TERRY KNEW ME!

IT'S BECAUSE OF ME MALEBOLGIA WENT AFTER TERRY!

.....

HE'S NOT COM-PLETELY INNOCENT, YOU KNOW?

GET A GRIP, K.K.

JUST ONE.

Kchak!

THERE'S A WAY TO SAVE HIM?

?

IT'S NOT TOTALLY HOPE-LESS.

BASICALLY...

...WE *SHOOT* HIM.

THAT'S YOUR PLAN?!

What?!

IF YOU CAN'T DO IT, I WILL.

BUT...

...THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.

WE HAVE TO BLEED OFF THE PSYCHO-PLASM HE'S A PRISONER TO...

...TO KEEP FROM SACRI-FICING ANOTHER INNOCENT LIFE.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY...

COLUMNS

TARISA KUMI

HENRY.F HOLMES

GRACE.L HENRY.F

VANITY

ROBERTO

?!?

TIME FOR ROUND TWO!

HEY, HEY, HEY! NO TIME TO PLAY!

zushya!

HMN?

COULD IT BE? ZOMBIE AND HIS FOUR-LEGGED LACKEY?!

WHAT'S THIS? THAT'S NOT WHO RAN AWAY BEFORE.

I COULDN'T HAVE PLANNED THIS ANY BETTER!

THIS IS JUST PERFECT!

ROWR!

GRrr'rr

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO MAKE IT A SHORT ENCOUNTER.

THE PUPPETEER IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.

huff huff

HA!

THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO?!

HGR!

yelp!

?

NOW!

THE WOLF WAS A DIVERSION?!

WH--

WE'RE WIDE OPEN--

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE, BUG!

ドゥ

?!

WAIT, CHEVEYO!

DON'T!

PLEASE!

CHEVEYO!

KID!

K--

GA--

BUT--

THAT'S NOT THE TERRY YOU RE-MEMBER!

MOVE IT!

...AND SHOW YOU A LITTLE OF MY OWN POWER!

JUST WHAT I NEED FOR THE WIND-UP...

THANKS FOR THE BREAK, SQUIRT!

tee-hee-hee!

ネクロン

!

HAVE FUN DANCING WITH THE UNDEAD, MY FRIENDS!

DAMN!

!

CHEVEYO!

MANGEE!

IF I GET RID OF YOU--

HEH, HEH, HEH. HAVE FUN, BOYS!

YOU!

GET RID OF...

...MOI?

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL BACK-WARDS!

C— CUT IT OUT, TERRY!

I'LL BE GETTING RID OF YOU!

TERRY!

A SLAVE TO THE BIT THAT CRAVEN LITTLE DEMON PUT ON HIM!

IT'S USELESS TO TALK TO HIM! HE'S LIKE THESE ZOMBIES!

I WON'T LET YOU GO LIKE THIS...

THESE THINGS ARE ENDLESS!

HRTH

GRN?

TERRY. YOU RE-MEMBERED ME ONCE.

AND I'M WASTING BULLETS!

LISTEN TO ME!

!

MISSING YOUR TARGET IN STYLE, EH?

?

MRNN

POWER ALONE HAS NO MEANING.

DO YOU REMEMBER? I SAID I'D TEACH YOU KARATE!

THIS IS MY PROMISE FROM SEVEN YEARS AGO.

LEGS SOLID. FISTS TIGHT. HEAD UP.

THIS IS YOUR DEFENSIVE POSTURE.

WHAT'S HE TALKIN' 'BOUT?

HNNN?

YOU MADE ME PROMISE THIS TO YOU SEVEN YEARS AGO! NOW GET WITH THE PROGRAM!

WHAT'RE YOU GAWKING AT? ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW, OR NOT?!

PROMISE... P--

HEENH?!

THIS LUG CAN'T RECALL HIS HUMAN MEM--

SEVUHN--

HA! HA! HA! YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELF!

FAST, LATERAL PUNCH. STRIKE THROUGH YOUR TARGET. CONCENTRATE!

PRO-MISE--

ATTACK POSTURE. LIKE THIS!

!!

IF YOU DON'T, SO HELP ME, I'LL SHOOT THROUGH YOU!

OUT OF THE WAY, K.K.! THIS IS MY LAST BULLET!

WH--?!

LOOK OUT, K..K..!

!

BOOM!!

!?

UGYAAA!

T--
TERRY!

plink

ktok

I WAS GETTING THROUGH TO THE MAN INSIDE!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL HIM!

I WASN'T ABOUT TO MISS.

WHY?

!?

hnr-uhm-

UmmNh...

EEP!

TERRY! YOU-- YOU'RE ALIVE!

...WHERE AM I?

WHERE...

TERRY?

HeEEEelp!

W-WAIT! TERRY! IT'S ME!

Y-Y-YOU DEMON!

G-G-GET AWAY!

WHAT THE *HELL* JUST HAPPENED? I THOUGHT YOU KILLED HIM!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU I HAD NO INTENTION OF MISSING?

TERRY.

AieeEEEE!

ONE WAS THE PROPERTY OF SEPARATING AN UNWILLING SPIRIT FROM WHAT WE NOW KNOW AS PSYCHOPLASM. THE REAL TERRY WAS IN NO REAL DANGER.

THE COCOPELI LEARNED EARLY ON THAT SILVER HAD SOME VERY INTERESTING EFFECTS ON BEINGS OF THE SPIRITUAL TYPE.

BECAUSE WHAT SAVED TERRY THIS EVE...

*WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LET ME IN ON THIS TO BEGIN WITH?!*

*WH--*

UH?

*...WASN'T* JUST THE SILVER BULLET.

BY THE CEME-TARY!

I'M TELLIN' YOU, BOSS!

GO AWAY, TERRY. THIS LIFE ISN'T FOR GUYS LIKE YOU.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SIR. I'VE GOT NOTHING.

REALLY...

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? FAERIES? MONSTERS?

WHAT?!

IF YOU GAVE ME ANOTHER COMIC BOOK STORY!

IF I RECALL, I SAID I'D KILL YOU

...SIR.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

COULDN'T BE...

...MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING AGAIN...

K...K... WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'VE SPOKEN TO HIM RECENTLY?

-SIGH- THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT K.K. SAID TO ME.

NOT FOR GUYS LIKE ME.

I'M REALLY FEELING IT, TODAY.

DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME.

IF I'M GOING TO GET MY FEET WET, IT MAY AS WELL BE NOW.

YAMAMOTO KARATE

Self defense INSTRUCTION DOJO

LET'S GIVE IT A GO...

...THIS "KARATE".

# EPISODE.15 BODY GUARD —護衛—

HE USES *MARIKO* AS BAIT.

I'M NOTHING MORE THAN MALEBOLGIA'S PLAYTHING. I SEE THAT, NOW.

THE ANSWER'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, CHEVEYO.

*ELLIS BENNET* ALSO PAID A HEAVY PRICE IN HIS LITTLE GAME.

HE'S EVEN USED *TERRY* TO THE SAME ENDS.

I CAN'T DO IT...

...TAKE-UP THIS FIGHT YOU'VE WAGED FOR SO LONG.

WAY I SEE IT, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO MAKE SURE MARIKO AND EVERYONE ELSE CAN BE SPARED.

YOU HAD ME PEGGED FROM DAY ONE.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE HER WELL-BEING ONCE AND FOR ALL.

AND THAT'S FOR ME TO DIS-APPEAR *FOREVER.*

IN A WORD, ***NO.*** THE TIMING IS ABYSMAL.

...THERE'D BE NO MORE SPORT IN TORMENTING MARIKO. *AREN'T I RIGHT, CHEVEYO?*

IF I WERE TO OFF MYSELF...

...RUSH BACK TO HELL LIKE A GOOD LITTLE DEVIL-BOY...

"THAT TIME" IS ***ARMAGEDDON.*** THE END OF THE WORLD... ...A WORLD MARIKO IS VERY MUCH A PART OF.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU "THAT TIME" IS NEAR?

TIMING? ?

THE COMING WAR WON'T BE LIMITED TO *THIS* WORLD. IT WILL INVOLVE THE DENIZENS OF *HEAVEN* ***AND*** *HELL*, TOO.

IT'S THE WORST POSSIBLE TIME FOR PEOPLE BORN TO THIS WORLD TO BE... ...ALIVE. THIS INCLUDES YOUR SISTER, MARIKO.

TELL ME, CHEVEYO...

THEN TELL ME--

DAMNED EITHER WAY--

*IF I CAN DO THAT, THEN ARMAGEDDON IS ALSO AVERTED, RIGHT?!*

*...WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO DEFEAT MALEBOLGIA ONCE AND FOR ALL!*

HARDLY A REASON TO THROW IN THE TOWEL, EITHER, THOUGH.

THE SUREFIRE MEANS?

NO.

...BUT THEN, IF YOU HAD AN ANSWER TO THAT, YOU'D HAVE TRIED IT BY NOW...

THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE WAITED FOR...

...FOR THE GATES OF HELL TO START TO OPEN...

AS I SAID BEFORE... ...I'VE COMMITTED MYSELF TO SEEING THIS THROUGH WITH HIS HIGHNESS, MALEBOLGIA.

...FOR THOSE OF US MALEBOLGIA IS ABLE TO CONTROL, IT'S THE ONE CHANCE WE HAVE TO ESCAPE HIS LEASH.

AS I WAS SAYING, WHILE THOSE WHO WERE BORN TO THIS PLANE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ALIVE IN A TIME OF MORE STRIFE...

IT'S A SPECIAL TIME...

IF YOU CAN ELUDE THE DEVIL AT THIS JUNCTURE, YOU'LL BECOME THE ***SHADOW OF SPAWN.*** YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DART IN THE SHADOWS WHERE EVEN MALEBOLGIA CANNOT SEE!

THAT SAID, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN BORN AT THE ***PERFECT*** TIME FOR THIS MOMENT.

WE'RE THE ONES DOING ALL THE WORK. GATHERING ALL THE EVIDENCE. LET THEM CRY US A RIVER IF THEY WANT.

*HMPH!* SCREW' EM.

THEY TOOK OVER THE *HAROLD CARTER* HOMICIDE... SO IT'S UNLIKELY THEY'LL LEAVE THIS ONE IN OUR HANDS.

THE C.I.A. CLAIMS JURIS-DICTION.

...WE'RE GOING TO GET THE COLLAR!

WHITE

BLACK

THE ELLIS BENNET MURDER IS OUR CASE. WE GOT THE MANIAC'S DESCRIPTION...

!?

THEN I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO BREAK IT TO YOU... BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

...CAN'T...

YOU...

IT'S TRUE. AND IT'S BY ***EXECUTIVE ORDER.*** YOU'RE WELCOME TO CALL ME ON IT, THOUGH I DON'T SEE IT BEING A PRUDENT CAREER MOVE.

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

OUR AUTHORITY IN THESE MATTERS ARE ***ABSOLUTE.***

ALL PSYCHO-PLASM RELATED INCIDENTS, INCL-UDING THE CARTER AND BENNET MURDERS, NOW FALL SQUARELY INTO OUR HANDS.

***SO...***

WHO KNOWS?

WHAT'S WITH THIS POWER TRIPPIN' LIMP-WRIST?

YOUR PEOPLE NEED NO LONGER CON-CERN YOUR-SELVES WITH THESE MATTERS. WE ARE NOW IN CONTROL.

DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?

...IF YOU DON'T WANT TO **DIE,** KEEP YOUR UNWANTED HANDS OUT OF **OUR** BUSINESS.

GOOD DAY, GENTLE-MEN!

WHAT THE ***HELL*** WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

.....

EXERCISE DUE DILIGENCE AT ALL TIMES, UNLESS YOU FEEL LIKE DYING.

THANKS TO THE ARMY'S LITTLE "MISCALCULATION," THIS ENTIRE CITY HAS BECOME A PSYCHOPLASM-SATURATED ZONE. WE'VE BEEN CALLED IN TO CHANGE THIS.

WHETHER IT WAS ONCE *ANIMAL*, OR IF IT WAS ONCE *HUMAN*, YOU ARE TO ***TERMINATE*** YOUR TARGETS WITH *EXTREME PREJUDICE.*

THE PSYCHOPLASM CONTAMINATION WILL ANIMATE BOTH THE *LIVING* AS WELL AS THE *DEAD*. YOU ARE TO *MAKE NO* DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE TWO.

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS!

*THIS SANITIZATION OPERATION IS NOW OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY!*

A WAY TO DEFEAT MALEBOLGIA!

SO...

...SO YOU'RE SAYING THERE IS A WAY!

READY?

IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF WHAT "IT" IS...

...RATHER, ARE YOU, YOURSELF READY?

WELL? WHAT IS IT?!

AND EVEN THEN, I CAN'T BE SURE IT'S THE RIGHT WAY.

IN THE 500 YEARS I'VE TAKEN-UP THIS CAUSE, I'VE SEEN ONLY ONE WAY.

NO MATTER HOW I'VE TRIED TO PARSE IT, IT WILL REQUIRE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE--

THE BATTLE TO DEFEAT MALEBOLGIA WILL TAKE EVERY OUNCE OF YOUR BEING. I MEAN THAT QUITE LITERALLY.

DON'T YOU SEE? YOU'D BE PLAYING RIGHT INTO MALEBOLGIA'S HANDS.

DON'T BE STUPID.

YOU'LL GLADLY LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE...

*HAVEN'T YOU BEEN LISTENING? IF IT'S FOR MARIKO--*

*IF NOT TO PROTECT HER, I HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE!*

*YES!*

...BECAUSE WHEN YOU'VE DIED IN THE NAME OF THAT REASON, YOU'VE GRADUATED INTO A FULL-FLEDGED *SPAWN*. AND WITH THAT, YOU'RE OFFICIALLY A *SOLDIER* IN *MALEBOLGIA'S ARMY*. *FOREVER*.

YOUR "REASON FOR DYING" IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS, IF NOT MORE SO, THAN YOUR REASON WAS FOR RETURNING. FOR "LIVING"...

!?

...HE WHO CREATED US IS THE VERY ONE WE SEEK TO DESTROY.

IF WE DO THIS, WE, TOO, WILL CEASE TO EXIST.

YOU STILL WON'T BE AROUND TO PROTECT MARIKO.

BEYOND THAT, THERE'S ALSO THIS POINT TO REMEMBER. SOME HIGHER POWER CREATES MAN AS WELL AS THE ANGELS...

DON'T YOU GET IT?

SO BLIND TO THE OBVIOUS.

...WHAT'LL WE DO?

THEN...

*EVERY WAKING MOMENT SHOULD BE DEDICATED TO ONE THING.*

**SURVIVAL!**

*YOU MUST SURVIVE AND KEEP FIGHTING HIM!*

**YOU LIVE!!!**

*YOU PUT EVERY LAST SHRED OF YOUR EXISTENCE INTO MAKING SURE YOU LIVE TO FIGHT TOMORROW, AND THE DAY AFTER THAT, AND LONGER STILL!*

THE *STRAYS* OUT IN THE ALLEYS KNOW THIS, AND YOU *STILL* DON'T GET IT! *GO OUT THERE AND LEARN THIS LESSON FROM THEM!*

...YOU'LL END UP A FOOT SOLDIER FOR MALEBOLGIA AND BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DESTROYING THIS WORLD.

IF YOU CONTINUE DOWN THIS KAMIKAZE PATH TO YOUR DEATH, AS IT SEEMS YOU'RE ALL TOO HAPPY TO DO...

WITH ALL YOUR HEART. WITH ALL YOUR PRIDE.

YOU HAVE TO LIVE, BOY. FIGHT.

.....

IT CANNOT BE YOUR REASON FOR DYING.

FOR YOU, THIS IS YOUR SISTER.

YOU MUST MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR REASON FOR COMING BACK. IT CANNOT BE YOUR REASON FOR EXISTING.

I...

...DON'T UNDER-STAND...

OR TO DIE WITHOUT ONE?

I CAN'T DO EITHER, THEN?!

HOW IS IT I'M TO LIVE WITHOUT REASON?

...MARIKO.

SHOW ME THE WAY...

Pow!

Pow!

MAYBE THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT?

THIS ISN'T A ROAD THAT SHOULD HAVE SO MUCH TRAFFIC AT THIS HOUR.

THIS IS STRANGE.

AWFULLY HEAVILY ARMED, AREN'T THEY?

THEY LOOK LIKE SOLDIERS.

TAKE A LOOK, THERE.

SIR.

AGH!

FIRE!

Blam!

Blam!

Blam!

Pow! Pow!

Blam!

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THE WAY...

RAHhHhGrr--

hnGrRrr...

BLAM!

BLAM!

BLAM!

SENSORS ARE GOING WILD!

STAY ALERT!

KEEP LOOK-ING!

FIND THEM ALL!

THEY GET HOPPED-UP, HAVE THEIR HALLUCINATIONS, THEN **BECOME** THOSE HALLUCINATIONS. *NASTY.*

MAN. THESE JUNKIES MU-TATIONS ARE THE WORST, BY FAR.

MY HUSBAND SEEMS TO BE RUNNING LATE.

HE SAID HE'D COME HOME EARLY TODAY, TOO.

...HAS SHE ALREADY GONE TO SLEEP?

MARIKO...

IF YOU DON'T MIND. TWO WOMEN ALONE IS JUST UN-SAFE...

SHALL I STICK AROUND FOR A WHILE LONGER?

YES... HER EMOTIONAL HEALTH IS AS IMPORTANT AS ANYTHING ELSE.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE HER IN GOOD SPIRITS AND ABLE TO SLIDE RIGHT BACK INTO WORK.

YES. SHE SAID SHE HAD AN EARLY START TOMOR-ROW.

BEST OF LUCK!

IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BE THIS OFF IN HIS TIMING. I'M GOING TO THE DOJO TO SEE IF HE'S STILL THERE.

IN THE MEANTIME, I LEAVE MARIKO'S SAFETY IN YOUR HANDS.

WHY DIDN'T SHE JUST USE THE PHONE?

B... BEST OF LUCK?

?

LEAVING ME AND MARIKO ALONE... ...IN AN EMPTY HOUSE--

IS THAT EVEN RIGHT?

A SOLEMN RESPON-SIBILITY!

NO! I HAVE A JOB TO DO, HERE.

...I'M MARIKO'S **BODYGUARD!**

FOR NOW...

JUST IN CASE THERE'S TROUBLE...

...I SHOULD PROBABLY BE CLOSE, RIGHT?

...SINCE I'M TO PROTECT HER...

STILL...

SECOND FLOOR, ALL CLEAR!

BACK HALL, NOTHING UNUSUAL!

HALLWAY, CLEAR!

OFFICIAL FINGER CONFIRM-ATION!

NNNNN...

...NO... NOTH--

NOTHI--

FIRST FLOOR...

Clink

...KAAA...

KA...

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU.

OUT OF MY WAY.

-:GASP:-

I LOST MY VOICE!

MA--

M...M...

MARIKO...

I-I-I... ...I SHOULD BE ASKING YOU THAT QUESTION!

W-WHO AM I?

HAROLD CARTER. ELLIS BENNET. SHE THINKS I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DEATHS. THERE'S SOME TRUTH TO THAT, BUT THERE'S MORE. IT'S A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING.

I'M NOT HERE TO TELL HER WHO I AM...

WHO'S GONNA BELIEVE THAT? I SAW YOU, FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!

WH-- WHAT ARE YOU B-B-BLABBING ABOUT?

I ONLY CAME TO TELL HER THIS...

...TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO IS OUT TO DO MARIKO ANY HARM.

I HAVE TO PROTECT MARIKO!

NG..GRR...

RRAH!

!?

キヤツ

Brack!

BEST JUST RETREAT, LITTLE BOY. FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

CH!

OW. OW OW OW

UNGH!

!

huff

huff

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

RETREAT IS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR, BOY.

HNN

THIS, COMING FROM A BOY TALKING FROM THE FLOOR? BIG TALK.

...WON'T LET YOU HARM MARIKO...

...I WON'T LET...

WAIT...

SOMETHING A WEAKLING LIKE YOURSELF MIGHT FIND A BIT SHOCKING.

LET ME SHOW YOU A LIL' SOME-THING.

...TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF ME?

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES...

BOY?!

HOW BRAVE ARE YOU NOW--

HNH. JUST AS I THOUGHT.

-GULP-

!!

I...

...I'M HER PARTNER!

YOU?

.....

I...
...WON'T LET YOU NEAR MARIKO.

?

!

A--
WA--

EH?!

MARIKO!

M--

HURRY IT UP!

STEP AWAY FROM TOSHIO. NOW!

YOU'RE HERE FOR ME, RIGHT?

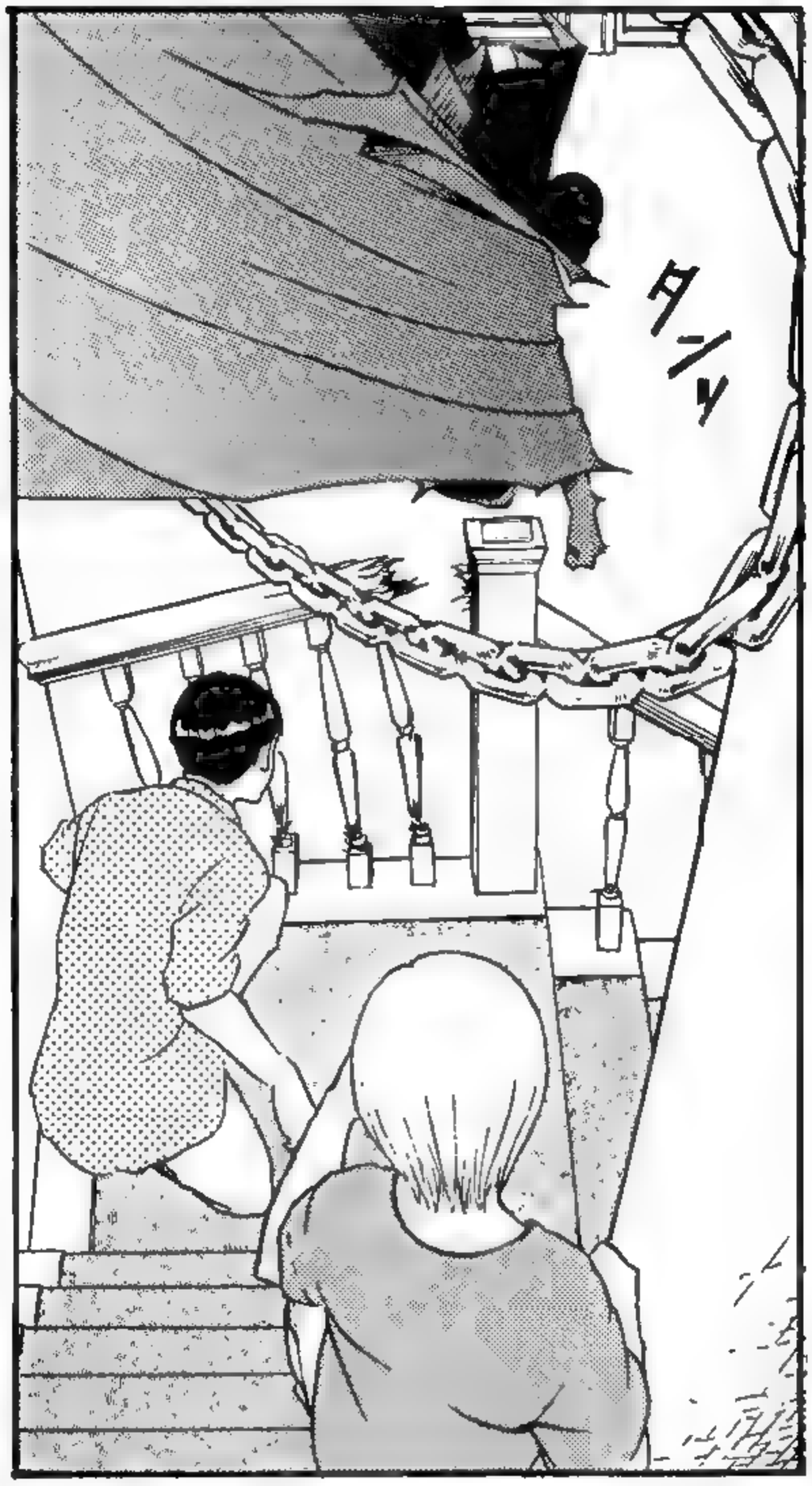
HYAAA!

DON'T COME NEAR--

NO, MARIKO!

!?

HAA!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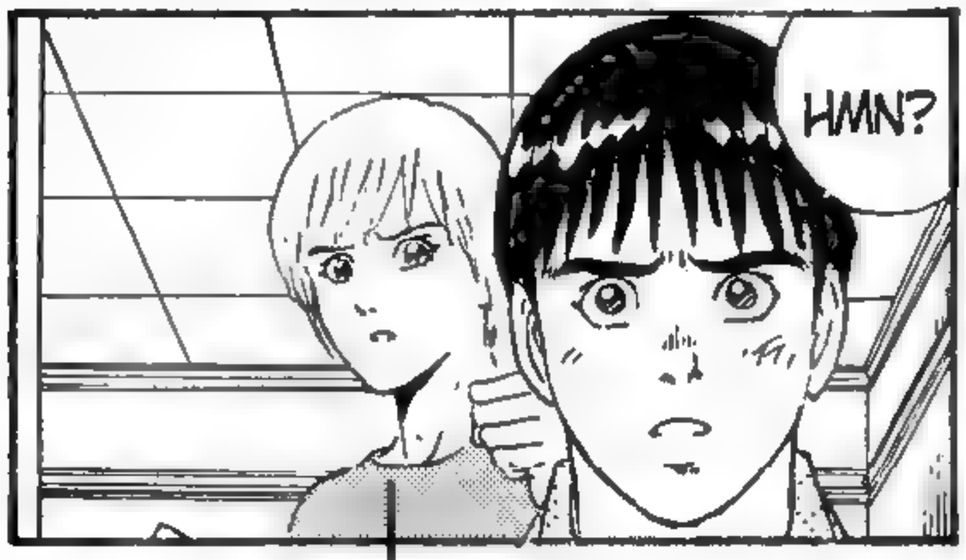
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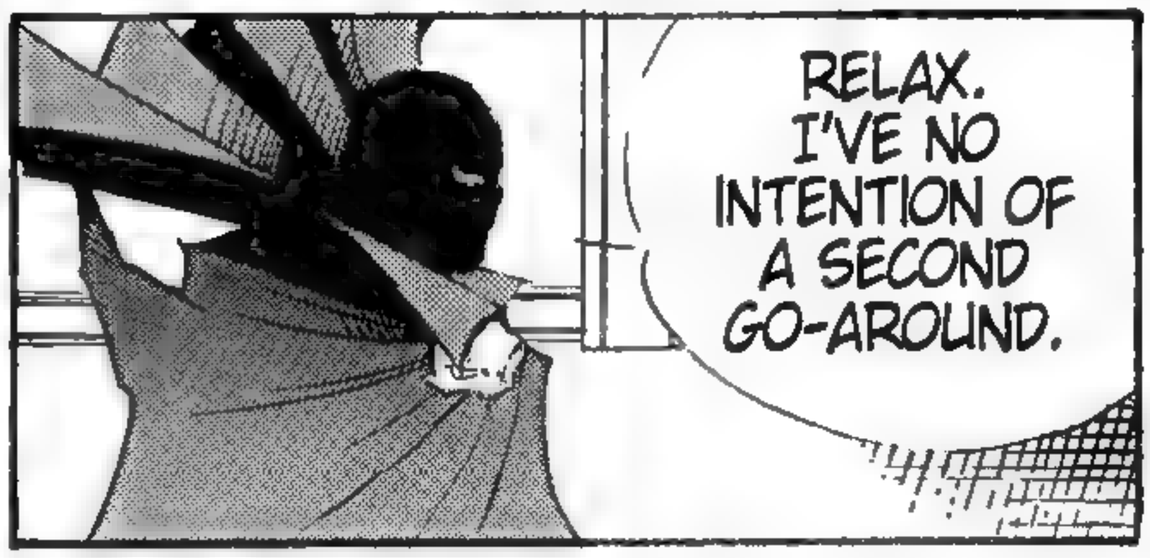

RELAX.
I'VE NO
INTENTION OF
A SECOND
GO-AROUND.

WH--

⇒ EE-- ⇐

ハキッハキッ

whisper whisper

huff

huff

THAT'S THE "*HIM*" YOU'VE BEEN TELLING US ABOUT?

THAT WAS *HIM*, WASN'T IT?

HE'S THE MAN I SAW KILL PROFES-SOR CARTER.

YES.

BUT THAT MAKES NO SENSE. WHY WOULD HE TELL ME...

AND I'D SWEAR HE WAS THE SAME ONE I SAW AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE MS. BENNET WAS MURDERED..

"I ENTRUST YOU TO PROTECT MARIKO."

WHAT'S HE MEAN?!

...TELL ME...

HUH?

...THAT'S "THE EXCEPTION."

SO...

...LITTLE CHICKY CHICK.

YOU LOOK TO BE A VERY ENTERTAIN-ING DIVERSION...

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A--

SHADOW OF SPAWN.

TO BE CONTINUED?

The following pages
contain a brief glimpse
into the reference
and research involved
in the creation
of:

# SHADOWS OF SPAWN.

## SPAWN FILE

# COLLECTING DATA IN L.A.

While the original SPAWN story was set in the backdrop of New York, SHADOWS OF SPAWN adopted the city of Los Angeles as its venue.

To this end, several extensive reference excursions were made to help capture the visual sense of what is known around the world as the place where moviestars work and play.

Even roads less traveled by the otherwise adventurous tourist were not immune to the all-seeing camera lens. "Urban flavors" were graphically inserted into the manga illustrations themselves, as is demonstrated in this panel clip of KEN KUROSAWA's old hangout...

Here, an unexpected movie shoot of an old America gangbusters scene clearly shows how even modern day LA still closely reflects its architectural past...

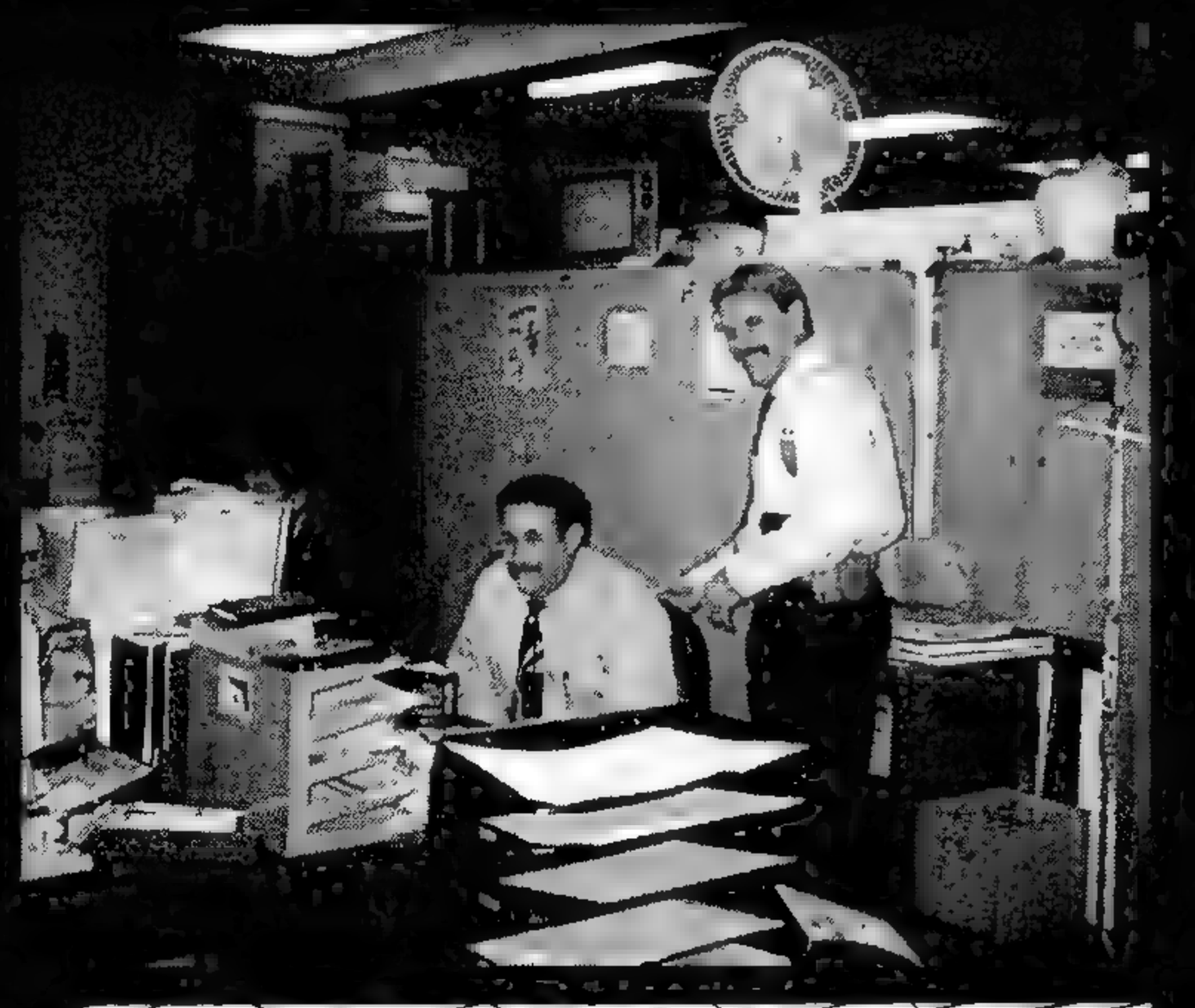
...while other sections of the city plainly reflected the "inner city" which is ever-present in all major metropolises.

Graveyards. A paramount scene for all Spawns, as they begin to come to grips with their own deaths.

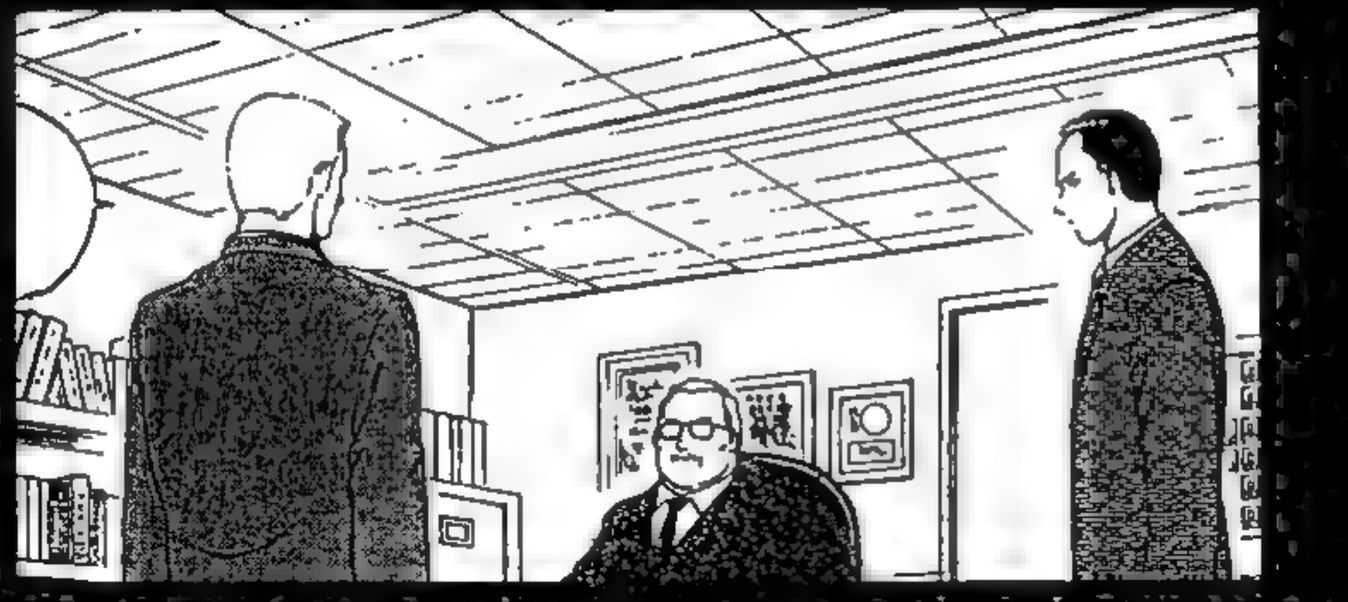
The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) became a focal point for the non-supernatural cast of SHADOWS, as good cops did their best to make sense of a very unearthly situation.

Here, another instance of a real life structure being translated not only into another language...

...but into another medium, as well.



The creators of SHADOWS would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who extended a hospitality and candor beyond the call of duty for the production of this series.



Another shot of LA's finest, with a more personal touch with the community...

...in addition to military personnel kind enough to provide additional uniform reference.

Mr. Tokoro would like to take a moment to personally thank Jason Yamaguchi for providing an abundance of information as well as being the ever-patient guide.

# STOP!

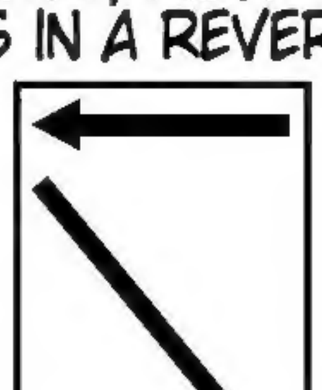
**This is the BACK of the book!**

UH-UH-UH! YOU'RE STARTING AT THE *END!* AND YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE IT'S TIME, DO YA? THIS BOOK READS FROM RIGHT (THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS BOOK) TO LEFT, JUST AS THE CREATORS WANTED IT.

IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME READING A MANGA, LOOK BELOW AND JUST FOLLOW THE SEQUENCE. IT'S REAL SIMPLE, AND MUCH MORE FUN. YOU KNOW UNCLE VIOLATOR'S WORD IS GOOD, RIGHT?

## DIRECTIONS:

PAGES ARE VIEWED, RIGHT TO LEFT. PANEL LAYOUTS IN A REVERSE "Z" SEQUENCE.






PAGE DETAIL

# SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"